

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, September 24, 2010



FILE - This undated file photo released by the FBI shows terror suspect Aafia Siddiqui. The U.S.-trained scientist from Pakistan who was convicted of trying to murder U.S. agents and military officers in Afghanistan should be sent to prison for 12 years rather than life because she is mentally ill, her lawyers said in court papers Wednesday Sept. 22, 2010.

(AP Photo/FBI, File)

## Pakistani given 86 years for firing at US troops

By TOM HAYS

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK – A U.S.-trained Pakistani scientist convicted of trying to kill U.S. agents and military officers in Afghanistan was sentenced Thursday to 86 years in prison after she delivered a message of world peace and forgave the judge.

"I am a Muslim, but I love Americans too," Aafia Siddiqui said during one of several rambling statements delivered in a lilting voice at the behest of U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman.

"Forgive everybody in my case, please," she added. "Also forgive Judge Berman."

During a three-hour hearing in federal court in Manhattan, Siddiqui claimed she had evidence Israel was behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and warned more plots were in the works. □



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## Nicaraguan diplomatic official found dead in NYC

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## Total recall



Empty shelf space is seen at a Price Chopper supermarket in Guilderland, N.Y., where recalled Similac powder products were displayed, on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010. Drugmaker Abbott Laboratories said it is recalling millions of containers of its Similac infant formula that may be contaminated with insect parts. The voluntary action affects up to 5 million Similac-brand powder formulas sold in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam and some Caribbean countries.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

## 5M cans of baby formula recalled over bug contamination

Abbott Laboratories is recalling 5 million containers of its best-selling Similac baby formula, The Associated Press reported. The recall, which affects powdered formula sold in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam and some Caribbean countries, was ordered because the product may contain beetles or beetle larvae.

Two consumers contacted Abbott with allegations of tainted formula, forcing

the company to launch an investigation. According to Reuters, the beetles were later discovered at the company's Sturgis, Mich., plant. "The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has determined that while the formula containing these beetles poses no immediate health risk, there is a possibility that infants who consume formula containing the beetles or their larvae could experience symptoms of

gastrointestinal discomfort and refusal to eat," Abbott said.

The affected products were sold in 8-ounce, 12.4-ounce and 12.9-ounce cans. Parents are urged to visit the Similac Website and enter the formula's lot numbers to determine if the products are part of the recall. Abbott expects to lose \$100 million in connection with the recall. □



## Colombia: No. 2 rebel commander killed in raid

In this June 28, 2001, file photo, Jorge Briceno, military commander of the Colombian rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, looks on at a rebel camp in La Macarena, Colombia. National police spokesman Wilson Vaquero told The Associated Press that Briceno, also known as Mono Jojoy, was killed Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010, in Colombia's eastern plains during a military raid.

Associated Press  
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# Nicaraguan diplomatic official found dead in NYC



In this May 28, 2009 image released by Nicaragua's Vice President's Office on Sept. 23, 2010, Nicaraguan diplomat Cesar Mercado, attends a meeting in Managua, Nicaragua. Mercado, 34, the acting consul general at the Nicaraguan consulate, was found dead Thursday Sept. 23, 2010 with his throat slashed in his apartment and a knife by his side, hours before he was to attend the United Nations General Assembly's annual meeting, officials said.

*Associated Press*

**COLLEEN LONG**

**Associated Press Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — A Nicaraguan diplomat was found dead Thursday with his throat slashed in his blood-spattered apartment and a knife by his side, hours before he was to attend the United Nations

General Assembly's annual meeting, officials said.

Cesar Mercado, 34, who had worked at the Nicaraguan consulate as acting consul general, was found at 10:35 a.m. in his apartment in the Bronx by the driver who came to pick him up to attend the meeting,

police said.

The driver found the door ajar and Mercado's body lying just inside, police said.

"The knife was found on the floor next to him," said Paul Browne, the NYPD's deputy commissioner for public information.

Police were investigating and no suspects were immediately identified. Investigators were looking into Mercado's recent contacts, his relationships and where he had been during the days leading up to the slaying. A motive remained unclear.

"He had no enemies. He was loved by everyone who knew him," a friend, Amparo Amador, said in Spanish. "When I first heard of his death, I thought he must've died from natural causes because there would be no way he could be killed."

Mercado came to the U.S. in 2001 to work as an assistant in the office of Nicaragua's ambassador to the United Nations, a friend said. He was single and his family was in Nicaragua.

He eventually took on the duties

of consul general, working with passports and immigration visas.

Amador said he was like a son to her. Recently, she'd urged him to go to the doctor because he looked thin, and he was diagnosed with diabetes. The two danced at a wedding of another friend in Brooklyn last week, she said.

"He was the perfect guy. The best person, just wonderful," she said. "I feel as if one of my children has died."

Leaders from 192 nations were in town for the General Assembly, including Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who is a fierce critic of the United States and a defender of North Korea and Iran. President Barack Obama addressed the General Assembly on Thursday.

Nicaraguan Vice President Jaime Morales said U.S. Ambassador Robert Callahan assured him that the FBI would do everything possible to investigate.

The assistant to the ambassador said the Nicaraguan mission in New York couldn't immediately

release any information.

Mercado lived on the top floor of a six-story apartment building in a working-class section of the Bronx.

Police barred reporters from entering the building Thursday. Residents said they didn't hear anything out of the ordinary Wednesday night, but some said it's often noisy in the building at night.

Mexican Consul Ruben Beltran, a leader of the Association of Latin American Consuls, said the organization will ask authorities for a prompt investigation.

"The Latin American community in New York has lost an active consul, who will be missed by his friends, colleagues and countrymen," the association said in a statement.

Beltran said he remembered Mercado's solidarity.

"There is concern among the community of Latin American consuls," he said. "He was an active colleague; he always came to the important events. He was a generous, friendly, straightforward person, a good colleague." □

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## Ind. girl says she knew 2 siblings died in closet



In this photo provided by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Ebyan Farah, 28, is shown. Police say they're holding Farah on preliminary charges of neglect in the deaths of two of her children at an Indianapolis apartment complex.

(AP Photo/Indianapolis Metropolitan)

By DEANNA MARTIN,  
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — A 7-year-old Indianapolis girl told investigators she and her siblings usually slept when barricaded in an apartment closet by their mother, but last weekend she called out for the woman to open the door after realizing her brother and sister had died, according to court documents released Thursday.

Ebyan Farah, 28, is charged with eight counts of neglect and confinement. A Marion County judge entered a preliminary not guilty plea on her behalf during a brief Thursday hearing, during which Farah hung her head and looked down at the floor. Defense attorneys requested a gag order for the case and private autopsies for Farah's 4-year-old daughter, Zuhur Farah Hassan, and 3-year-old son, Zakariya Farah Hassan. Her three other children have been placed in foster care, but a lawyer for her husband said he returned this week from a visit to Africa and is seeking

regain custody. The attorneys issued a statement to Indianapolis media saying relatives of Farah, an immigrant from Somalia, are "devastated and shocked by this tragedy."

"We are a tight community, and we believe with God's help that we will face this tragedy with strength and faith," Farah's uncle, Mohammed Hersi, said in the statement. Farah's attorneys said they would have no further comment until the judge rules on the gag order.

Authorities have said Farah told police she "was not in her right mind" when she allegedly placed her children in a 6-foot by 1 1/2-foot upstairs closet at Manchester Village Apartments about 6 a.m. Sunday. Court documents say Farah put a bed frame or mattress against the closet door to keep the children from leaving while she went to visit a friend for the day.

Seven-year-old Muntaaz Farah Hassan told investigators her mother often put children in the closet as punishment or when she needed to cook, according to a police affidavit. The girl said she sometimes helped her mother get the children in the closet when they got into trouble.

The girl said she had a hard time breathing in the hot, dark closet Sunday and that no food and water had been left for her and three of her four siblings, according to the affidavit. Muntaaz said her youngest brother, who turns two next month, was not there.

Authorities said earlier in the week that all five children were believed to be in the closet, but did not immediately return messages seeking an explanation for the discrepancy Thursday. □



Ashley Longe sits during a hearing Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010, in Franklin-Hampshire Juvenile Court in Hadley, Mass. She is one of three who were in court, charged with bullying Phoebe Prince, a 15-year-old South Hadley, Mass., High School student who hanged herself in January.

(AP Photo/Michael S. Gordon, Pool)

By STEPHANIE REITZ,  
Associated Press Writer

HADLEY, Mass. — Prosecutors say they will call up to 50 witnesses in their case against three girls accused of bullying a classmate so relentlessly that she committed suicide. Ashley Longe, Sharon Chanon Velazquez and Flannery Mullins, all from South Hadley, appeared with their attorneys Thursday in Franklin-Hampshire Juvenile Court. Their cases are expected to go to trial in early 2011. The three are among a group of six teenagers charged earlier this year with bullying Phoebe Prince, a 15-year-old South Hadley High School freshman who hanged herself in January.

Their attorneys said Thursday they will file motions by Nov. 1 asking a judge to toss out the grand jury's indictments based on insufficient evidence. The lawyers also opposed prosecutors' request to have the first of the trials in December, saying they had volumes of information to review as they prepared their defense.

Judge Daniel Swords rejected the idea of starting the trials

## 3 teens in Mass. bullying-suicide appear in court

in December, but encouraged the attorneys to submit their motions and other paperwork quickly. "Let's get them filed. Let's get them heard. Let's move this case along," he said. Longe, Velazquez and Mullins were each 16 when they were charged as youthful offenders with violation of civil rights resulting in bodily injury. Mullins and Velazquez also

are charged with stalking. All three have pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors say some of their witnesses are now in college and will be called back to the area to testify. The teens and their attorneys did not comment after Thursday's court hearing, other than a brief statement by attorney Colin Keefe to reaffirm Velazquez's innocence. □


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# Obama heckled on AIDS, gay rights at fundraiser



President Barack Obama greets the crowd, including a couple protesters, after speaking at a fundraiser in New York City, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010.

By MARK S. SMITH,  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama got heckled at a fundraiser Wednesday night by protesters pushing for more funding for AIDS programs and quicker action to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Activists yelled slogans and held signs aloft reading "Obama broken promises KILL." Supporters of the president tried to drown them out with shouts of "O-bam-a! O-bam-a!"

The hecklers were so raucous Obama went off-script several times to address them, insisting

he's increased AIDS funding and is working to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. He told them to go shout at Republicans, noting that a vote on repealing "don't ask, don't tell" failed this week in the Senate, with Republicans united in opposition.

"Some of those signs should be going up at the other folks' events, and folks should be hollering at the other folks' event.

Because the choice in November could not be clearer," the president said.

Addressing an activist pushing for more funding for global AIDS initiatives, the president said, "We heard your point. And as I said before, we increased AIDS funding. ... The people who will take over if we don't focus on the election, I promise you, will cut AIDS funding."

The protest took place in the ballroom of the Roosevelt

Hotel as Obama raised \$1.4 million at receptions and a dinner for the House and Senate Democratic campaign committees. Obama is in New York to attend the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

Obama had just finished saying it's "nice just to stop by and see some friends" when the shouting began.

Bystanders briefly tried to snatch the signs, and ultimately the heckling subsided. The signs stayed aloft throughout Obama's remarks, and even as he shook hands afterward with well-wishers a few feet away. One of the activists, Jennifer Flynn, told reporters she and the others bought tickets to the reception.

Democrats are anticipating potentially heavy losses in midterm elections six weeks away, and Obama tried to rally them.

"The last election was about

the changing of the guard," he said. "This election is about guarding the change."

Tickets for the event ranged from \$100 for a general reception to \$15,200 for a dinner and photo with the president.

At the dinner, singer Barbara Streisand and her actor husband, James Brolin, were among those who heard Obama say Democrats have accomplished "a lot to be proud about." But he also acknowledged widespread voter frustration.

"When I was running for office ... maybe we gave people the wrong impression about how change happens," Obama said.

But after reviewing for his audience the health care overhaul, his new Wall Street rules and other tough policy battles, Obama said, "People, this is what change looks like." □

## Flooding forces Wis. city to evacuate downtown

By TODD RICHMOND,  
Associated Press Writer

ARCADIA, Wis. — A powerful storm drenched parts of the upper Midwest on Thursday, flooding creeks and rivers and forcing more than half the residents of one Wisconsin town to evacuate their homes for higher ground.

Gov. Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency and ordered the National Guard to Trempealeau County. Heavy rains there forced mandatory evacuations for as many as 1,500 residents of Arcadia, a town of around 2,400 people 100 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

Police officers in Arcadia began going door-to-door in the rain early Thursday to urge residents to flee rising floodwater, City Clerk Angela Berg said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Downtown Arcadia, which sits along the swollen Trempealeau River, has been swamped with up to 3 feet of water and two highways into town have been closed, authorities said. Berg

said Myers Valley Creek and Turton Creek overflowed. Wisconsin activated its Emergency Operations Center and sent a representative to the area, and the National Guard sent three trucks to Arcadia to help with evacuation efforts. Lynn Law, 39, said she woke up to find water up to the roof of a car across the street from her home. Emergency workers had to use a construction truck with a large scoop to evacuate Law, her two teenage children and the family dog.

She said her daughter, a 14-year-old high school freshman, was worried about missing her first homecoming dance this weekend.

"There's nothing you can do about it," Law said.

The water was so high that Jeremy Farnam, 32, a supervisor at Ashley Furniture's production plant, had to resort to a bicycle to try to get to work. He didn't get far, with the water level as high as the wheels of his bike. Rachel and Chuck Amundson took in a group of friends

who were flooded out of their downtown homes. They sat in the Amundsons' garage, drinking beer and smoking cigarettes.

"At times like this, you just thank God you've got friends and family," said Rachel Amundson, 29.

Eva Anderson, who heads the city's parks and recreation department, said she was worried about her 82-year-old mother, whose house was in the middle of the flooding.

"I'd like to get her out of there because she'd be a little bit scared. I just think she'll be startled when she gets up and sees water around her house," Anderson said.

Residents were being evacuated to the Holy Family Catholic Church. Classes were canceled Thursday.

About 85 miles west in Owatonna, Minn., flooding along Maple Creek forced the evacuation of fewer than 10 homes, Steele County emergency management director Mike Johnson said. More than 6 inches of rain had



As water is pumped out of his basement, Jeff Dube stands in his flooded garage as rising water surrounds his home in Owatonna, Minn. on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010. Dube said water levels in his basement had reached between four and five feet high and were rising with continual rainfall. Heavy rains overnight have caused flooding in numerous locations in southeastern Minnesota, including Owatonna where the Maple Creek spilled over its banks.

(AP Photo/The Star Tribune, David Joles)

fallen in the area by Thursday morning.

Pastor John Lestock of Trinity Lutheran Church said water has been pouring into his own basement, seeping through the floor and coming in through windows.

More than 3 inches of water covered the floor of his church, he said.

"It's just too much water coming down too quick and there's no where for it to go," Lestock said. "We are on a hill, but there are standing puddles in our yard, which

we've never had before."

The flooding southeast of the Twin Cities had gotten so bad on Thursday afternoon that the Minnesota Department of Transportation was laboring to find passable detours around submerged parts of Highway 52, a key link to Rochester, department spokeswoman Jessica Wiens said.

And with another band of rain moving into the area Thursday evening, Wiens said the problem wasn't getting any easier. "It's getting bigger and bigger," she said. □

# Lawyer: Other young men went on trips with pastor

By ERRIN HAINES  
GREG BLUESTEIN,  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — The pastor of a nationally known Atlanta-area megachurch took other young men on trips as part of a mentoring program but stands by his denial of claims that he had sex with three of them, a lawyer for the religious leader said Thursday.

Bishop Eddie Long plans his first public response to the allegations Sunday during services at his 25,000-member church, attorney Craig Gillen said on the Tom Joyner Morning Show after Long canceled an interview with the nationally syndicated radio program.

In lawsuits filed this week, three men who were members of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church claimed Long coerced them into sexual relations with gifts including cars, cash and travel when they were 17 or 18 years old. The sprawling church in suburban Lithonia counts politicians, celebrities and the county sheriff among its members and hosted four U.S. presidents during the 2006 funeral of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow, Coretta Scott King.

One of the claims in the lawsuits is that Long had sexual contact with the young men, who were enrolled in New Birth's ministry for teen boys, during trips he took them on in the U.S. and abroad. Gillen said the travel was part of a mentoring program that other young men also participated in.

"The mentoring process involving travel is not exclusive to the three plaintiffs making these allegations," Gillen said.

Gillen also read a statement from Long in which the pastor, a married father of four, said he's anxious to respond to the allegations but that his lawyer has advised him not to yet.

"Let me be clear. The charges against me and New Birth are false," Long's statement said. Gillen also said the three making the allegations were motivated by money, adding that one of them is accused of breaking into Long's office.

In addition to canceling the radio show appearance, an expected Thursday news conference with Long was also called off.

Gillen said Long will speak directly about the allegations to his church congregation Sunday.

B.J. Bernstein, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said she opened her investigation after getting a call from one of the men. □

**FILE** - In this Jan. 18 2007 file photo, Bishop Eddie Long, of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, in Lithonia, Ga. gestures during an interview in Lithonia. Two men on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010 filed a lawsuit accusing Long of exploiting his role as pastor of an Atlanta-area megachurch to coerce them into sexual relationships when they were members of his congregation.

(AP Photo/Gene Blythe, File)



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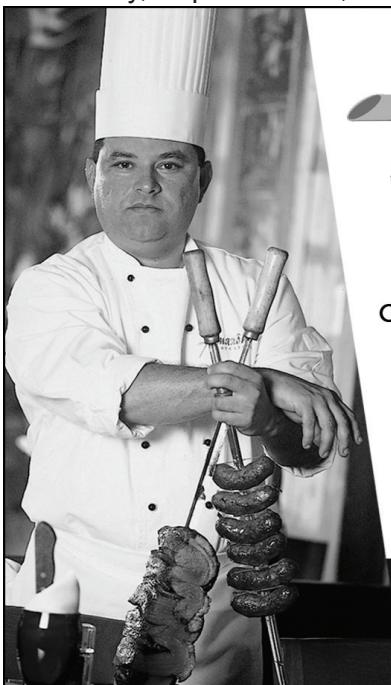
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## American hiker wants to meet with Iran president

By TAMMY WEBBER,  
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — An American woman held in Iran for more than 13 months and accused of espionage says she hopes to meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad while he is in New York this week to attend the annual General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sarah Shourd, who was detained with two other Americans while hiking near the border of Iraq and Iran in January 2009, said on a

Thursday episode of the "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that she wants the Iranian leader to know she has "no animosity towards him or towards any Iranian people."

"There's just no reason for animosity," Shourd said. "In a situation like this, I don't know who's making the decisions. I don't know why what happened to us happened ... there's no feeling of blame or anger. There's just a strong desire for it to be over so we can go on with our lives."

Shourd was released after

officials in Oman, an ally of Iran and the United States, mediated a \$500,000 bail for Shourd that satisfied Iranian authorities and apparently did not violate U.S. economic sanctions against Iran. The source of the bail payment has not been disclosed.

Her fiance, Shane Bauer, and their friend Josh Fattal remain in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison. Shourd said she never thought she would leave Iran without Bauer and Fattal, and still is "numb and a little bit in shock."

"I just need to keep up with my pleas to the Iranian government and religious leaders to show the same humanitarian gesture" and compassion to her friends, she said. "They did nothing wrong."

Ahmadinejad has told The Associated Press he hopes Bauer and Fattal would be able to provide evidence "they had no ill intention in crossing the border" so they can be released. Iran has issued espionage-related indictments against the three of them, which could bring trials for the two men and proceedings in absentia for Shourd.

The three University of California at Berkeley graduates were detained after Iranian officials said they intentionally crossed the country's border from Iraq. Shourd said the three had been hiking in a popular tourist area — near a waterfall in Iraq's Kurdistan region — and had no idea the border was nearby. Shourd said they went to the



In this photo provided by Harpo Productions, Inc., talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, right, interviews Sarah Shourd, during taping of 'The Oprah Winfrey Show' on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, at Harpo Studios in Chicago. Shourd was an American hiker who was released after being accused of espionage and held in Iran for more than 13 months. The show will air nationally on Thursday, Sept. 23.

(AP Photo/Harpo Productions, Inc., George Burns)

area because northern Iraq was considered safe and had "wonderful museums and amazing foods" and they wanted to experience the Kurdish culture. She said they saw soldiers about three hours into their hike, but there was nothing to indicate they were crossing into Iran.

After being detained, the three were driven around Iran for a few days and interrogated, but were sure they would be released, Shourd said.

"For the first three days, I thought 'this is impossible; we did nothing wrong; we're tourists,'" Shourd said. "It didn't hit us until we arrived in Tehran ... that was one of the most devastating moments."

She said she "screamed and screamed all night long" when she realized she was in prison.

Shourd said all three were held in solitary confinement for the first two months, and

later were allowed to see each other for about an hour a day, though she still was held in solitary confinement the rest of the time.

She said she was in a cell that was "eight steps by five steps," with a bed and an area in which to exercise and could bathe daily.

At one point, she said, an Iranian investigator told her the investigation was over but that the situation had "become political and it really doesn't matter if you're innocent or not. This is bigger than you."

Shourd grew up in Los Angeles; Bauer is a native of Onamia, Minnesota, and Fattal grew up in Pennsylvania.

Shourd and Bauer had been living together in Damascus, Syria, where Bauer was working as a freelance journalist and Shourd as an English teacher. Fattal, an environmental activist, went to visit them last July.



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# New strikes in France over retirement age

ANGELA DOLAND

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — French authorities estimated nearly 1 million protesters have filled the streets to try to force President Nicolas Sarkozy to drop his plan to raise the retirement age two years to 62, while strikes also disrupted airports, train stations and schools for the second time this month.

The protest movement has been a big test for Sarkozy, who, like other European leaders, has struggled to convince his country of the need for cost-cutting and scaling back generous social benefits after the Greek debt crisis scared markets and sapped confidence in the entire 16-nation euro currency.

France's powerful unions consider retirement at 60 to be a near-sacred right, and more than 230 demonstrations stretched from the southern port city of Marseille to Lille in the north. Some protesters carried signs demanding early retirement for Sarkozy, whose dismal approval ratings hover in the mid-30s.

With stakes high, the government and unions disagreed about the size of Thursday's turnout — even more so than usual.

The Interior Ministry said the protest movement had lost steam since the last day of protests Sept. 7, with 997,000 protesters in the streets, a drop of about 11 percent. But unions said the movement grew to nearly 3 million protesters, up from what they said was about 2.5 million last time.

In Paris, one protester carried a sign reading, "Austerity? For the rich first!" Vendors at the Bastille sold vuvuzelas — a new noisemaker for French demonstrators, joining the traditional megaphones and whistles.

Some retirees were marching out of solidarity for youths.

"Today we have a pension, we deserve one, and we wish the same thing for the younger generation," said retired police officer Michel Fourgues.

In recent days top officials have said repeatedly that the risk of

a terrorist attack on French soil was at a record high, a highly unusual warning in France. But protesters seemed unworried. "What's the point of stirring panic, so that people stay home today because they're worried the protest might be bombed?" said Micko Bourdo, a disc jockey from the Basque

country, who wore a black beret and blue coveralls.

As baby boomers reach retirement age and life expectancy increases in France, the conservative government insists it must raise the retirement age so the money-losing pension system can break even by 2018. □



People march with a banner reading "Strike" during a demonstration Thursday Sept. 23, 2010 in Paris. French commuters squeezed onto limited trains or fought for rare parking spots Thursday as a second round of strikes against President Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to raise the retirement age to 62 hobbled trains, planes and schools across the country.

Associated Press



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# Colombia: No. 2 rebel commander killed in raid

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's military killed the No. 2 leader and top military strategist of the country's main rebel army in blistering bombardments of a major jungle camp, officials announced Thursday, saying rebel informants helped prepare the demoralizing shock to an already weakened insurgency. The death of Jorge Briceno, also known as Mono Jojoy, is a huge setback for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which has been reeling from years of pressure by an increasingly effective U.S.-backed military. President Juan Manuel Santos called the attack "the most crushing blow against the FARC in its entire history" — more important than the March 2008 bombing raid across the border with Ecuador that killed FARC foreign minister Raul Reyes or the bloodless ruse that July that freed former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, three U.S. contractors and 11 other hostages.

Santos, who was defense minister during both operations, got the news while jogging in New York City's Central Park. He explained to The Associated Press what Briceno's death means to Colombians: "It is as if they told New Yorkers that Osama bin Laden had fallen." Briceno, 57, joined the FARC as an illiterate teenager and spent the rest of his life in the jungle, becoming a feared and charismatic commander in a force that a decade ago controlled nearly half of Colombia. Analysts predicted his loss could lead many rebels to give up the fight and might nudge the FARC to seek peace in earnest.

Santos told reporters that at least 20 rebels were killed, including other senior insurgents whose identities were not disclosed pending fingerprint and DNA tests, in operations that began Monday night with bombing raids involving at least 30 warplanes and 27 helicopters and ended with ground combat on Wednesday.

Heavy rains Thursday were



Colombia's Defense Minister Rodrigo Rivera, center, accompanied by Colombia's commander of the Armed Forces Adm. Edgar Cely, left, Colombia's Air Force Commander Gen. Julio Gonzales, second from left, Colombia's Army commander Gen. Alejandro Navas, second from right, and Colombia's Navy commander Vice-Admiral Alvaro Echandia, right, speaks during a press conference in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010. Rivera confirmed that Colombia's military killed Jorge Briceno, also known as Mono Jojoy, the field marshal and No. 2 commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in bombing raids and combat targeting a major encampment at the edge of the country's eastern plains.

preventing officials from airlifting the bodies to a Bogota morgue, they said.

Air force chief Gen. Julio Gonzalez told the AP that Super Tucano and other warplanes dropped more than 50 bombs on the camp.

Commandos found Briceno's body outside a concrete bunker in a camp laced with tunnels and recovered 12 laptop computers and 50 USB drives, said a military spokesman, speaking anonymously because he wasn't authorized to provide details.

The spokesman said the raid was six months in the making and included surveillance of radio communications and human infiltration.

The key to its success was intelligence, including "the collaboration of members of the FARC itself," said Defense Minister Rodrigo Rivera. "The FARC is rotting inside."

He did not offer specifics, though other officials told the AP they were discussing reward payments to collaborators.

The U.S. State Department had offered a \$5 million reward for Briceno. The biggest reward known to have been paid for fingering a FARC commander was \$2.5 million to an unknown informant who led authorities

to Reyes' camp.

Briceno had been rotating for months among a series of camps in a rugged area of nearly 4,000 square miles (1 million-hectares) where the Andes mountains drop off into eastern plains that include La Macarena massif, a national park, said one senior Colombian official. Police and Navy intelligence agents succeeded in pinpointing his movements, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the subject's sensitivity.

The area is the cradle of the FARC, which was co-founded in 1964 by Briceno's mentor Manuel Marulanda, a legendary fighter who died in 2008 of an apparent heart attack in the same region.

Briceno, whose walrus mustache made him widely recognizable, had risen through the insurgency's ranks to become its most powerful and respected field commander as well as a major drug trafficker. His rise saw the rebels increasingly turn to cocaine production, evolving from taxing farmers who grew coca to producing the drug and selling it to exporters.

The first major attack on record ordered by Briceno was a 1987 ambush in San Vicente del

read as a rebel.

The group's main leader, Alfonso Cano, remains at large and is believed to be in the mountains of central Colombia. Military commanders claim they've been closing the noose on him as well. Colombian officials say other Secretariat members are hiding out in neighboring Venezuela.

The hemisphere's last remaining large rebel army, whose numbers authorities estimate at about 8,000 — half its strength of a decade ago — the FARC has been badly weakened since 2002 by Washington's strongest ally in Latin America. Colombia has received more than \$6 billion in U.S. aid, including Blackhawk helicopters and training by Green Berets.

Many Colombians believe Briceno was a key obstacle to efforts to renew peace talks.

Betancourt, who is on a book tour in New York promoting her memoir of FARC captivity, said in an interview with NPR on Thursday that Briceno was one of the rebels' "bloodiest commanders," adding that as long as he was alive she didn't think Colombia could have a serious peace process.

However, he was less rigidly dogmatic than Cano, a Bogota-bred intellectual.

Analyst Leon Valencia of the left-leaning think tank Nuevo Arco Iris said Briceno's death marked the end of the FARC's Eastern Bloc, which had been its strongest.

He said he expected the FARC would now seek to negotiate. Santos has rejected a peace dialogue unless the FARC ends kidnapping and extortion and halts attacks that have claimed the lives of more than 30 police officers since he took office Aug. 7.

"This is the 'Welcome Operation' that we have been promising the FARC," said Santos, who was elected on a promise to continue former President Alvaro Uribe's withering military campaign against the FARC. It comes less than a week after Colombia's military killed at least 22 FARC fighters in bombing a rebel camp near Ecuador. □

Associated Press

Caguan that killed 26 soldiers and wounded 44. The biggest on record was the 1998 taking of the provincial capital of Mitu in which 60 police officers were killed and 30 captured.

"He was at the heart of the FARC's military effort and of its morale," said Sergio Jaramillo, Santos' national security adviser.

Military analyst Alfredo Rangel said Briceno's death could lead to many more desertions, including even front commanders. Former Interior Minister Fernando Londono said Briceno was the only "irreplaceable" FARC commander.

Rivera said Briceno was caught at "the mother of all FARC camps," a complex some 300 yards (meters) from end to end. He said troops engaged rebels in ground combat on Wednesday and were only able to confirm Briceno's death on Thursday morning. Rivera said five troops were injured with the only government death an explosives-sniffing dog.

Briceno belonged to the FARC's seven-member ruling Secretariat. Like most insurgents from a humble background, he was a fighter for most of his life, joining as a youth and even learning how to

# Israeli leaders condemn Clinton immigrant comments

ARON HELLER,  
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli leaders have sharply criticized Bill Clinton over comments the former U.S. president made this week calling Russian immigrants in Israel an obstacle to peace.

Clinton, who is generally a well-loved figure in Israel for his efforts to broker a Mideast peace deal in the 1990s, also said at a round-table group this week in New York that the most recent arrivals in Israel have the hardest time agreeing to share the land with the Palestinians.

"An increasing number of the young people in the IDF (Israel Defense Force) are the children of Russians and settlers, the hardest-core people against a division of the land. This presents a staggering problem," Clinton said. "It's a different Israel. Sixteen percent of Israelis speak Russian."

The remarks were first reported by Foreign Policy Magazine's Cable blog.

Clinton couldn't be reached for comment Thursday.

The comments, which come amid recently renewed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks sponsored by President Barack Obama, have sparked an uproar in Israel.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, whose Yisrael Beiteinu party relies heavily on immigrant support, lashed out at Clinton, slamming his remarks as "crude generalizations" and accusing him of meddling in Israel's internal affairs.

"The people of Israel are one nation and the Russian immigrants, like the other citizens of Israel, want true peace based on the recognition of Israel's right to exist as the national state of the Jewish people," Lieberman said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, it appears



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton speaks during a financial panel discussion during the 2010 Clinton Global Initiative Meetings, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

that Clinton has forgotten that the one who refused the far reaching offer that meant harsh Israeli concessions was actually Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat." In 2000, at the end of Clinton's tenure, peace talks broke down when the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat rejected Clinton's proposal.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to downplay the former president's remarks, saying in a statement Wednesday that he "regrets" the comments and that Clinton, as a friend of Israel, was well aware of the great contribution of its Russian immigrant community. Clinton called the Russian

immigrant population in Israel the group least interested in a peace deal with the Palestinians.

"They've just got there, it's their country, they've made a commitment to the future there," Clinton said. "They can't imagine any historical or other claims that would justify dividing it." □

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## Aruba TODAY



Featuring Colorful, New Logo And Tagline

## Aruba Launches 'One Happy Island' Global Brand Identity



NEW YORK - The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) is pleased to announce the launch of a new global branding campaign for the country, which includes a redesigned logo and the re-launch of the "One Happy Island" tagline. The new branding will be introduced in the U.S. through a new advertising campaign titled "Aruba Uncovered," which will include print, TV, online and out of home ads, and is slated to launch September 27, 2010.

The heart of Aruba's new brand identity is its new logotype, which includes new typography, colors and imagery; and has at its core symbol the red compass rose from Aruba's national flag, representing the national pride of the island. The placement of bold, impactful letters in the logo reflect a playful attitude, while the colors echo the island's natural environment, from the clear blue and turquoise of its sky and sea to the fresh and crisp green of its flora and fauna.

Another key aspect of the

new branding is the re-launch of the "One Happy Island" tagline, which had previously been used as Aruba's official slogan for decades.

The tagline still holds a strong identification with the local community on the island, and has been used as the inscription on Aruba license plates for many years. Highly recognized by visitors from across the world, the tagline will now be officially used in all marketing initiatives worldwide, as a bold and contemporary central theme for promoting the country.

"The government of Aruba currently has a number of tourism-related initiatives underway to fulfill our collective vision for the island, and our new brand identity is a large part of that," said Mr. Otmar Oduber, Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Labor and Transportation. "The new universal brand positioning builds on our pride for our country as both a wonderful place to live and to visit. We are one happy island, and we want everyone to know it."



The new brand identity was developed by The Partners, a New York-based company specializing in brand strategy and design, which was tasked with creating an exciting and globally consistent image of Aruba, to be used both on-island and in all of its marketing arenas.

"Aruba's unique culture and beautiful surroundings offered us an ideal foundation for creating a vibrant global brand," said Steven Gilliatt, Managing Director, The Partners. "This was a wonderful opportunity to support the government of Aruba in building a sustainable marketing program that will promote tourism to the island for years to come."

The new branding will be unveiled in the U.S. through the new "Aruba Uncovered" advertising campaign created by Deutsch Inc. The new television ads feature Ian Wright, host of the travel/adventure television series, *Globe Trekker*, as he travels to Aruba to learn about the island and the people firsthand. The ads are filmed in an unscripted documentary style and show interaction with local Arubans to reinforce the welcoming spirit of the island in an authentic way. The ads are slated to begin airing in Aruba's top regional markets, including New York

City, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington DC, Harford/New Haven, Pittsburg and Atlanta, among others.

"In filming the new TV ads, we avoided the typical seductions of island paradise, and instead created smiling invitations from a beautiful place, with unpretentious and disarmingly friendly Arubans," said Greg DiNoto, Partner, Chief Creative Officer, Deutsch NY. "Ian Wright was a natural choice for our spokesperson—he's a 'winking proxy' for all of us jaded travelers. In our unscripted spots, Ian registers genuine surprise and delight at how friendly Aruba can be, and lets consumers reset the agenda for a tropical vacation."

Deutsch also created a new print and online campaign, featuring the "One happy island" tagline and new logo. The new print ads will begin running nationally in October

in publications such as Bon Appétit, Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine, Real Simple, Brides and more. Online ads will be appearing on TheKnot.com, Travel Channel online, Yahoo.com, Weather.com, Travelocity, Expedia, Orbitz and more.

Advertisements will also appear in the form of phone kiosks, branded subway trains and train platform posters in New York and Boston – Aruba's top two markets in the U.S.

Aruba's new global marketing identity has a direct link to the island's Bo Aruba initiative, which includes plans to renovate and improve important civic and tourist areas in downtown Oranjestad and throughout the island. Colorful examples of the new brand are currently displayed with banners, signage and street architecture throughout Aruba. □



## Search On For A Caribbean-Born Cooking Show Hostess



A Caribbean-owned, U.S.-based company is on the search for a hostess for a cooking show. Officials say they are seeking a 'stunning, sexy, young hostess to host a Caribbean cooking show.' No media experience is necessary, but executives say the ideal candidate must be visually appealing on camera with an electric personality and speaking voice and know her way around the kitchen. Former Caribbean beauty queens are welcome to submit demos as the best entrant will get the opportunity for international exposure as host of a cooking show in addition to other exciting prospects Interested entrants must submit entries via digital links showing you hosting your own cooking show to [totastetheislands@yahoo.com](mailto:totastetheislands@yahoo.com). □



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## Grab life by the grapes' is Arion's slogan at Cas di Glas

ORANJESTAD - 'Grab Life by the Grapes' is the slogan of the Arion Wine Company (AWC) when its entire team will come into action during a fun fundraising action at the Cas di Glas event on Sunday, October 3rd. The wine importing company was one of the event's first enthusiastic sponsors, coming up with a plan to donate money per bottle sold towards the purchase of a mobile breast cancer screening unit, the grand goal of the event, which is held from September 29 – October 3 at the Renaissance Marketplace.

At Superfood supermarket, AWG. 0,50 goes to Cas di Glas for every bottle of South African Namaqua wine sold, while Ling & Sons donates that amount per bottle of Alice White. Tastings of Alice White are held on October 1 and 2 at Ling & Sons, promoting the wine as well as the



happening at the Renaissance Marketplace. In Mulligan's Restaurant and in Windows, both fabulous restaurants on the Divi Golf course, at the Hyatt Regency Resort and at Ruth Chris in the Marriott one US dollar per bottle of Kendall Jackson wine goes to the good cause.

Photo shows the two Arion volunteers, Jody-Anne Godette and Mitchel van der Weide, both EPI students. They are going to hand out fun gimmicks on Sunday, October 3, the final day of Cas di Glas. □

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A mix of high tea elegance and couture

# Ronchi de Cuba's latest TRASH designs are shown at De Suikertuin



ORANJESTAD - This Sunday afternoon De Suikertuin restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat is going to be the hottest place on Aruba: local designer Ronchi de Cuba will be showing his latest fashions during an elegant high tea. Lovely models will be parading around the seated guests during an informal showcasing of several new European lines of men's and women's wear, which Ronchi de Cuba is very excited about. His own collection is different from everything he has ever done before.

“Solid colors, but with extravagant details in leather and other materials, for instance,” says the master, who turned down an internship at Gianni Versace after he finished design school to become one of Aruba's foremost designers.

In choosing solid colors, Ronchi is taking a new road, as he is best known for his prints. Last year's collection, however, already showed simplification: then the colors black with a striking contrast color was hot.

De Cuba's store TRASH

has been renovated: it is now ready to receive the latest fashions. On October 1st TRASH re-opens. “The V-shaped shirts for men are

great,” extols Ronchi, who is greatly looking forward to the high tea at De Suikertuin. The people who will have to miss the event

on September, 26 should not be too sad: Ronchi will preview his Christmas collection at De Suikertuin on November 28. □



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his maître d' Glen Bonset. An evening at Carte Blanche is an adventurous experience: one gives the chef carte blanche and he starts preparing five most delicious courses for you, individually adjusted to your liking. Served with grace and style, the plates looked superb; they tasted even better.

As Glen Bonset informed his guests about the fabulous wines he poured, he showcased his considerable wine knowledge. He poured a terrific Monkey Bay 2009 Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, a Wente Chardonnay Riva Ranch 2008 from Monterrey, California among others. Carefully chosen and



expertly paired, the choices of the various wines were at times innovative, yet always in perfect harmony with the courses served.

As every evening is different at Carte Blanche there is no fixed menu: the chef whips up his creations with the ingredients available. Although Sunday's amuse, the Provençal snails, the mahi mahi, the eggplant caviar, the tender duck breast, the rack of lamb and the veal medallion made lasting impressions, it was the dessert that had everyone drooling: the combination of a chocolate ganache, a chocolate brownie, a spiced-up pear and a Madeleine did the trick. A chocolate martini



was the crowning glory to this spectacular culinary feast. Dinner starts between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm, the dress code is casually elegant.

The Old Dutch Mill is a landmark on Aruba: it has been shipped in pieces from

Groningen, Holland to Aruba. The mill, which dates back to 1870, has never been used for any milling purposes on the island; it just stands out prettily and looms over Carte Blanche, which is located beneath its left wing. □




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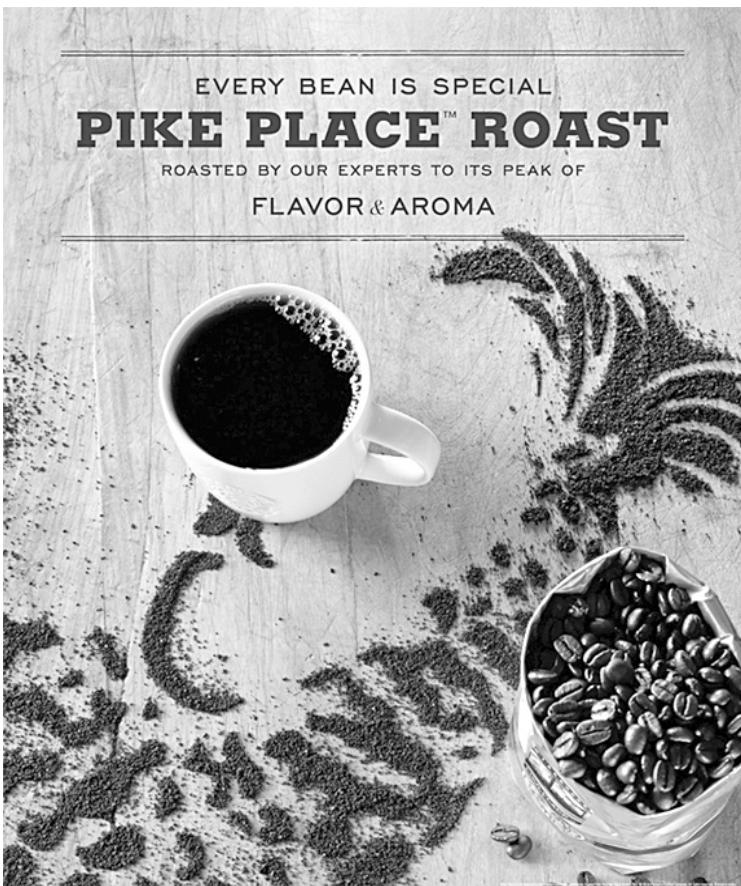
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Oranjestad - Starbucks launched its much anticipated PikePlace™ Roast to reinforce standards for quality and responsible coffee sourcing in Starbucks company-operated stores in Renaissance mall and marketplace. Inspired by the company's first store in Seattle, Washington's Pike Place Market, Pike Place™ Roast will be brewed daily, paying tribute to Starbucks heritage and showcasing Starbucks signature roasting and blending expertise.

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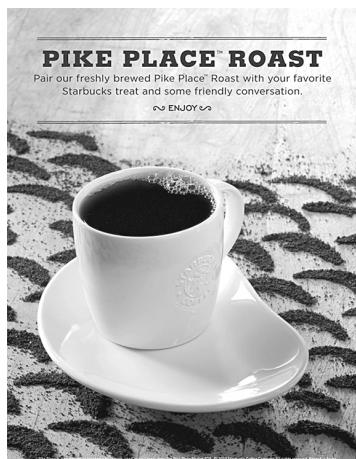
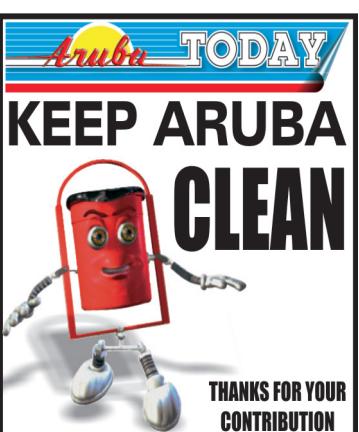
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~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, September 24, 2010

**AP Source:**

### NFL agents get NCAA letter

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK – Agents for NFL players have received a letter from the NCAA seeking cooperation when the NCAA is investigating college players.

A person familiar with the letter told The Associated Press Wednesday that the tone is not threatening and the NCAA is not applying pressure on the agents. But it wants “an environment of cooperation” when NCAA regulations may have been broken regarding contact between agents and amateur student-athletes.

“With the added scrutiny, the NFLPA has had calls with coaches and with the league and the NCAA officials on this,” said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the letter has not been made public. “The only thing (the union) is doing is encouraging people cooperating to get the right information in place. I know it’s a stretch to call it pressure.”

In the wake of the Reggie Bush scandal that led to Southern California landing on probation, the NCAA has expressed concerns about potential rule violations to several agents and to the NFL Players Association. DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the players’ union, said in Orchard Park, N.Y., that he’s heard about the letter, but couldn’t comment because he hasn’t seen it. Smith visited the Buffalo Bills on Wednesday.

Several prominent agents said they have not received or seen the letter. Some agents might have been upset by receiving the letter, believing they were being targeted by the NCAA. □

## Some playoff contenders have empty seats

A lot of empty seats are shown during a major league baseball game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010.

Associated Press

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## Tour de Fours



Paul Casey lines up his putt on the 18th green during first-round play in The Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010.

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# Some playoff contenders have empty seats

By JOE KAY

AP Baseball Writer

CINCINNATI — When the Reds called up crowd-pleasing reliever Aroldis Chapman at the end of August, players hoped his 103 mph fastball would finally fill the seats at Great American Ball Park.

"We were talking about it a little bit in the bullpen," Cincinnati reliever Sam LeCure said. "We were saying, 'I hope when Aroldis comes, they can get more people in the seats.'"

Not even his blink-of-an-eye pitch could pack 'em in.

The Reds are on the brink of securing their first playoff appearance in 15 years, but they're having trouble drawing much of a crowd to see it happen. Attendance is up roughly 4,000 per game at Great American, but the Reds still rank near the bottom of the National League.

They're not alone, either. Atlanta, San Diego and Tampa Bay are struggling at the gate while they fight for a spot in the postseason.

Heading into games on Thursday, all four were in position to make the playoffs as either division champions or wild-card teams. None of the four ranked higher than ninth in attendance in their leagues, according to STATS LLC.

San Diego is on track for its first playoff appearance in four years, but ranks 11th in attendance at 26,038 per



A lot of empty seats are shown during a major league baseball game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010.

Associated Press

game. Last year, the Padres drew 23,735 per game.

The Reds rank 12th at 25,379 per game, an increase from 21,579 last year but still a disappointment. They sold only 12,061 tickets — their smallest crowd of the season — when they clinched their first winning season in 10 years on Sept. 13.

The Rays have been going back-and-forth with the Yankees in the AL East all season, but their attendance has gone backward. Tampa Bay is selling 23,081 tickets per game, a decrease from 23,147 last year. That ranks ninth in the AL.

Atlanta was second in the NL East and led the wild-card race by a half-game over San Francisco. In Bobby Cox's final season as manager, the Braves have experienced a slight rise in ticket sales. They're averaging 30,042 per game, up from 29,304 last year.

Each team has a different dynamic at work. The Rays have a history of struggling to sell tickets. The Reds just broke a streak of nine consecutive losing seasons, which made them an afterthought heading into the season. San Diego and Atlanta also are surprising contenders, and warm weather on the West Coast and in the South presents other options besides going to a ballpark. There's one common thread.

"I understand with the economy the way it is, some people can't afford to come out to the game," LeCure said.

Attendance overall is down minimally in the majors this season, from 30,215 per game last year to 30,078. The economy has cut into not only baseball's crowds but those for other professional sports as well.

Beyond that, it's anyone's guess.

The Reds' long streak of futility — no playoff appearance since 1995, no winning record since 2000 — cut deeply into fan interest. They drew only 1.7 million fans last year, their smallest attendance since 1986 when they were at Cinergy Field. One game drew only 9,878 fans, the smallest gate since Great American Ball Park opened in 2003.

It was a measure of how much the losing has hurt fan interest. Their biggest crowds this season came when the rival Cubs and Cardinals were in town, bringing tens of thousands of fans with them. □

At some games, the visiting fans drowned out the home crowd.

"We welcome them because we need the attendance," Reds manager Dusty Baker said before a series with Chicago. "We need the attendance so we can sustain and get some more — more players, that is."

The Reds' payroll depends heavily upon attendance. Cincinnati increased its opening day payroll from \$71 million last year to \$72.4 million, which ranked 19th in the majors. The Reds are hoping for a significant bump in attendance next year to give them more payroll flexibility.

Historically, teams usually see a jump in attendance the year after a great season. Tampa Bay's attendance increased from 1.38 million in 2007 to 1.81 million in 2008, when it went to the World Series and had those playoff crowds. The improbable postseason run resulted in a bump in ticket sales to 1.87 million last year. The Reds know what that's like. □

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# Favre pressing during 0-2 start

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The hair on Brett Favre's head looks just a little grayer these days.

His passes don't seem quite as precise as they once were and the magic that he created in his first season with the Minnesota Vikings — both on the field and in the locker room — has been conspicuously absent.

Such is the pall cast by an 0-2 start for a team that expects to contend for the Super Bowl.

With injuries to his favorite receivers and a more challenging schedule than the welcome mat that was rolled out for him last season, Favre and the Vikings offense have failed to continue the roll that took them all the way to the NFC championship game last season. The Vikings have scored 19 points combined in losses to New Orleans and Miami after averaging nearly 30 points in the regular season in 2009. They have already lost a game at home — 14-10 to the Dolphins on Sunday — after going 9-0 in the Metrodome last year and Favre is coming off a performance in which he threw three interceptions and lost a fumble in the end zone that led to one of Miami's two touchdowns on the day.

Simply put, it's not how he envisioned things starting when he decided to return for a 20th NFL season.

"I don't want to raise red flags," Favre said on Thursday. "We gotta get on the same page,

because we're 0-2. We gotta find a way to get this thing going. I gotta make better decisions. I gotta play better." It would be hard to ask him to do more than he did last season, which he calls the best of his brilliant career. Favre threw for more than 4,200 yards with 33 TDs and seven interceptions, finishing with a career-high 107.2 rating.

Everything seemed to come astonishingly easy for him, even though he turned 40 in October and had surgery to fix a torn biceps muscle in his throwing arm before the season started.

The encore has been far more difficult.

Sidney Rice is out for at least another month after having hip surgery. Percy Harvin missed nearly all of the preseason with migraines and is now bothered by a strained right hip. Center John Sullivan is still working himself back into full playing shape after missing the preseason with a calf injury.

Favre is throwing to a receiving group that includes Greg Camarillo, who was brought in with a trade from Miami in late August and journeyman Hank Baskett, who was just signed on Wednesday to add depth.

"Right now, we're kind of grasping at straws trying to figure out things," Favre said. "I think we, me included, can get on the same page even better."

Favre said on Thursday that

he's still "not really sure who I'm throwing to on particular plays" and admitted that "If I sat here and told you that I knew exactly what we're doing right now I'd be lying." The lack of continuity and production early in the season has Favre reverting to gunslinger mode, sometimes trying to force things that aren't there and squeezing the ball into spaces that are too tight for comfort.

That mentality led to two of his interceptions on Sunday, one that was thrown into double coverage deep down the field while he was trying to hook up with Bernard Berrian. The other came on a back shoulder throw to Berrian at the goal line.

"I've got to err a little more with caution on some of these decisions," Favre said. "And history has shown with me that when we're struggling a little bit, I try to press the issue and try to make something happen. I think that's what's made me the quarterback I am and has benefited me throughout my career. But it's also hurt me. It's hard to be patient and try to get this puzzle pieced together."

Keeping everyone on an even keel is the job of offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, who has known Favre for years dating back to their years together in Green Bay. It's a constant point of emphasis, Bevell said, to assure Favre that he doesn't have to do everything himself.



This Sept. 19, 2010, file photo shows Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre walking to the sideline after throwing an interception during Vikings and Miami Dolphins NFL football game, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

"He's always got the one guy on (his left shoulder) telling him what to do. I try to be the guy on the other side to settle him down and continue to remind him that this is not one man versus 11," Bevell said. □

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# No Ryder Cup\_ Casey looking for another prize

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

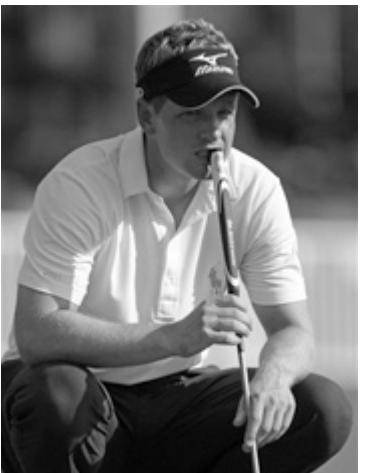
ATLANTA — Paul Casey won't be going to the Ryder Cup. He wouldn't mind a \$10 million consolation.

Casey was the only player among the top five in the FedEx Cup standings to break par Thursday, running off three straight birdies around the turn at East Lake for a 4-under 66 and a share of the lead with Geoff Ogilvy and Luke Donald in the Tour Championship.

It was the seventh time Casey has shot in the 60s in the nine rounds since European captain Colin Montgomerie left him off the Ryder Cup team. Whether that's motivating him to play well, the Englishman isn't saying.

A different kind of cup does have his attention.

At stake in this playoff finale is a \$10 million bonus to the FedEx Cup champion. The top five in the standings — Casey got to No. 5 with his runner-



Luke Donald, of England, left, lines up his putt on the 17th green during first-round play in The Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010; and Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, right, watches his putt on the 18th green during his first round of play in The Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010.



*Associated Press*

up finish two weeks ago at Cog Hill — can claim golf's biggest payoff by winning, no matter what anyone else does. "I've got an opportunity to accomplish one of the goals which I set for myself at the beginning of the year," Casey said. "I'm just trying to put myself in that position to win and then tick off that goal,

which would be a huge goal. I'm not getting wrapped up in any sort of extra motivation. I don't need extra motivation. I'm motivated enough." Breaking par was hard work on a difficult course in steamy conditions. The fairways are fast and more narrow than ever, and only nine players in the 30-man field broke 70.

One of them was defending champion Phil Mickelson, who has an outside chance to win the FedEx Cup and a better chance to replace Tiger Woods at No. 1 in the world. Woods did not qualify for the Tour Championship for the first time in his career.

Mickelson had two eagles in a span of four holes, including a shot he holed from the fairway on No. 12. Not so good was making bogey after both eagles, along with consecutive bogeys after his first birdie of the tournament. He shot 69, not a bad start.

"It's a better position than I started last year," said Mickelson, who opened with a 73 and went on to a three-shot victory. "Could have been better, could have been worse, and it was an interesting day."

Jim Furyk had a 67, while K.J. Choi was at 68. The group at 69 included Hunter Mahan, Jason Day, Kevin Na and Mickelson.

Matt Kuchar, the top seed in the FedEx Cup whose golfing career is rooted in Atlanta, chipped in for eagle on the 15th hole. That wasn't enough to offset for four bogeys in his round of 72, including a tee shot into the stands on the par-3 18th.

Dustin Johnson, the No. 2 seed, struggled off the tee on his way to a 73, while Steve Stricker (No. 4) also had a 74. Charley Hoffman, part of the top five from his victory at the TPC Boston, had a 71.

It only helps Casey and his

bid to win the FedEx Cup when the four players ahead of him are behind him on the leaderboard, and he took notice of that when he glanced at video screens around East Lake.

"The big screens they have out there never go past the top 20, and I wasn't seeing anybody in the top five (in FedEx Cup standings) in that top 20," Casey said. "There is a very long way to go, though."

And he has enough company under par to remind him of that. Donald, who had a runner-up finish at the Deutsche Bank Championship to get to No. 7 in the standings, had six birdies in his round of 66.

Donald was among the three captain's picks for Europe and is hopeful of building some momentum, along with the winning the tournament, before heading over to Celtic Manor in Wales.

It was awkward for Donald when Casey was left off the Ryder Cup team for the first time since 2002, particularly because Donald's brother in Casey's caddie. Still, he didn't see a correlation in Casey's recent form to any Ryder Cup snub.

Even though Casey hasn't won a tournament this year, he is No. 7 in the world ranking. That wasn't an accident.

"You expect him to play well," Donald said.

The best news for Ogilvy, an Australian, is that he's starting to expect himself to play well. Ogilvy has not won since the season-opening SBS Championship at Kapalua, and he didn't so much as contend until the TPC Boston. That helped him get to the Tour Championship, even entertain thoughts of winning the FedEx Cup as the No. 12 seed.

"You can't come out and say, 'Hey guys, I'm going to play well in the next few weeks,' because it doesn't quite work like that," Ogilvy said. "But I think I get a pretty good feel for when it's coming around. But I don't know why."

So does he feel his game coming around? Ogilvy smiled.

"I think so," he said. □



Lance Armstrong, cyclist and Founder of Livestrong, attends the Clinton Global Initiative, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010 in New York.

*Associated Press*

However, she never said exactly what she heard.

Unauthorized versions of the LeMond-McIlvain conversation have long been available on various cycling websites.

Bienert said McIlvain was truthful when she told the jury that she never heard Armstrong admit that he doped.

"Any comments she made suggesting the contrary were simply gossip, speculation and opinion with people she thought were her friends, like Betsy Andreu," Bienert said. □

## Armstrong friend talks to grand jury

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A longtime friend of Lance Armstrong's told a federal grand jury that she never heard the cyclist admit he used performance-enhancing drugs, the woman's attorney said Wednesday.

Stephanie McIlvain, also a business associate of Armstrong's, appeared before the jury hearing evidence connected to allegations of doping in professional cycling during a daylong session.

"She testified that she had never heard Lance Armstrong say he had taken performance-enhancing drugs," said McIlvain's attorney, Thomas H. Bienert Jr.

The testimony contradicts claims by Armstrong rivals that he acknowledged using banned substances 14 years ago when he battling cancer. Bienert said McIlvain had never been pressured by Armstrong or others to lie.

# Sampras: Healthy Nadal may break Slam record

MELISSA MURPHY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Sampras says Rafael Nadal can break Roger Federer's record of 16 Grand Slam titles if he stays healthy and maintains a smart playing schedule.

The 24-year-old Nadal, known for his grinding style, recently won his ninth major at the U.S. Open to complete

## Serena Williams pulls out of Pan Pacific Open

TOKYO (AP) — Tournament organizers say top-ranked Serena Williams has pulled out of this month's Pan Pacific Open as she continues her recovery from surgery on her right foot.

Williams, who cut her foot on broken glass at a restaurant after winning Wimbledon this year, returned to practice earlier this month.

Williams headed a strong field for the Sept. 26-Oct. 2 Pan Pacific Open. Wimbledon runner-up Vera Zvonareva, French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, Caroline Wozniacki and Jelena Jankovic have also entered the tournament. Maria Sharapova returns to defend her title.

After missing this year's U.S. Open, Williams told The Associated Press on Sept. 13 she was yet to decide when she'd return to competition, but plans to play for the United States in the Fed Cup final against Italy in November. □

a career Grand Slam.

"If he's smart with his schedule and the fact that he has so many at such a young age, he could very well do it," Sampras said in a conference call Thursday for the BNP Paribas Showdown.

Sampras will meet former rival Andre Agassi for a best-of-three sets match Feb. 28 at Madison Square Garden. John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl, rivals from the 1980s and '90s, will play one set. Sampras called Nadal "a beast" on the court and thinks Nadal can chase Federer's record. Federer surpassed Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slams in 2009.

"The only question with Rafa is physically how much his body can handle the pounding with how hard he works for every point," he said of Nadal, who has been sidelined with knee injuries and a pulled abdominal muscle in the last few years.

Federer was 25 when he earned his ninth Grand Slam

at the 2006 U.S. Open. Since then, the 29-year-old Federer has won seven major titles. Nadal also won the French Open and Wimbledon this year.

"(Nadal's) in the middle of his career, so he could do a lot more great things," Sampras said of the top-ranked Spaniard.

But the former No. 1 player added that Nadal doesn't need to break the Grand Slam record to prove himself. "He's won all the majors, won the Olympics and has a winning record against Roger," Sampras said of the 14-7 career edge.

He also predicts Federer "is going to win a few more majors." Sampras said he had dinner with former coach Paul Annacone, who now coaches Federer.

"They're implementing coming in and being a little more unpredictable," Sampras said.

Sampras last played an exhibition at the Garden



Tennis players Roger Federer, left, and Rafael Nadal look on during Arthur Ashe Kids Day at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

against Federer in 2008. He'll renew his rivalry with Agassi after exchanging verbal volleys with him at a Hit for Haiti exhibition in March.

Agassi apologized for poking fun at Sampras during the match at Indian Wells, Calif. After Sampras mimicked Agassi's pigeon-toed walk, Agassi repeated the criticism in his book "Open" that Sampras was a poor tipper. Sampras responded with

a high, hard serve that forced Agassi to duck. "As competitive as we were in the '90s, we got along quite well," Sampras said.

"Obviously, he said a few things in his book; we had a few moments. But it's fine." Sampras said they recently spent time in Costa Rica and will play an exhibition match in South America. He'll also play Andy Roddick in Omaha, Neb., in his training for the showdown. □



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# MLS Roundup: FC Dallas draw 2-2 with Revolution



FC Dallas forward Jeff Cunningham (9) celebrates after scoring on a pass by David Ferreira, rear, in the second half of an MLS soccer match against the New England Revolution, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, in Frisco, Texas. The match ended tied at 2-2.

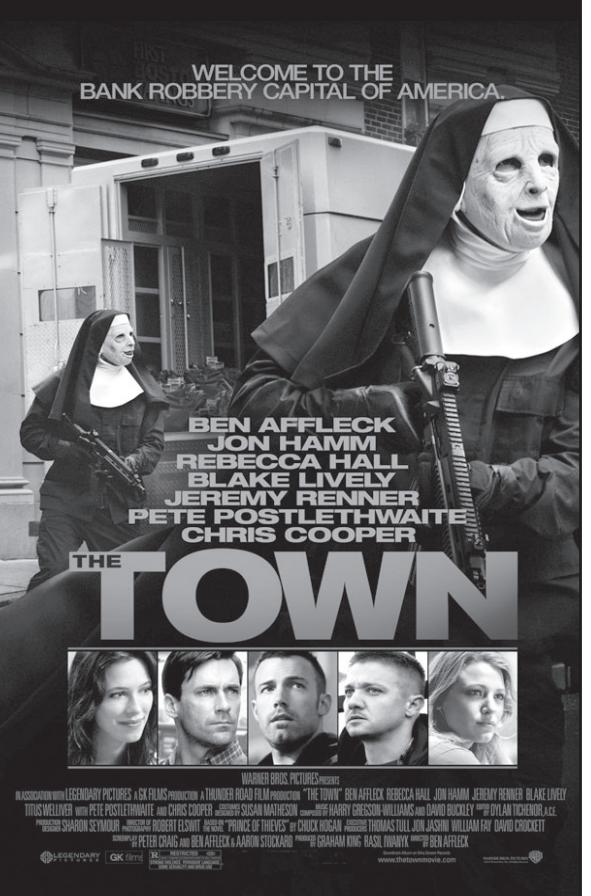
Associated Press



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FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Jamaican forward Jeff Cunningham scored in the final minute of stoppage time Wednesday to give FC Dallas a 2-2 draw with the New England Revolution and extend its club-record unbeaten streak to 16 matches in Major League Soccer.

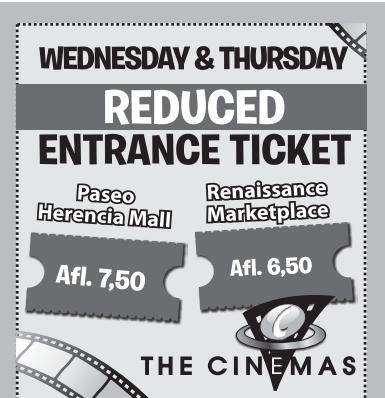
Shalrie Joseph of Grenada opened the scoring for New England in the fifth minute and Serbian striker Ilija Stolica extended the lead in the 66th with a shot from the top-right corner of the box. David Ferreira of Colombia pulled FC Dallas within 2-1 with a penalty in the 80th minute, then helped set up Cunningham's equalizer minutes later. FC Dallas has eight wins and eight draws in the past 16 matches, which is two short of the MLS season record set by the Columbus Crew in 2004.

Also Wednesday, substitute Josh Wolff scored from a diving header in injury time to give the Kansas City Wizards a 4-3 home win over the Houston Dynamo.

Ghanian forward Dominic Oduro and Canada's Adrian Serioux scored four minutes apart in the first half for Houston — with a goal in between from Kansas City's Kei Kamara of Sierra Leone. The Wizards' comeback began with Teal Bunbury's goal in the 60th minute, and Dynamo defender Serioux conceded an own-goal in the 72nd to level the match at 3-3.

Wolff, who entered in the 85th minute, connected with a cross from Michael Harrington to complete the Wizards' win.

Kansas City has lost just one of its past 10 matches and beat Houston at home for the first time in five meetings. Houston lost its fourth straight and has won just one of its past 15 matches. □

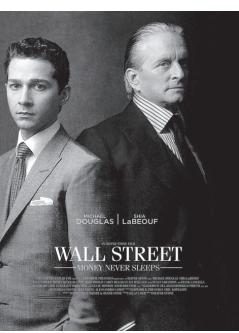


## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER 29

\*matinee: saturday & sunday | late show: friday & saturday

AT RENAISSANCE	AT PASEO HERENCIA
<b>THE TOWN</b>	<b>WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS</b>
daily: 5:45 - 8:30 matinee: 12:00 - 3:00 late show: 11:30	NEW daily: 5:15 - 8:30 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:30
<b>THE EXPENDABLES</b>	<b>THE TOWN</b>
daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:15 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:45	NEW daily: 5:00 - 8:00 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:00
<b>MACHETE</b>	<b>AVATAR SPECIAL EDITION 3D</b>
daily: 6:15 - 9:00 matinee: 1:15 - 3:45 late show: 11:30	PG-13 daily: 12:00 - 3:45 matinee: 12:00 - 3:45 late show: 12:00 - 3:45
<b>RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D</b>	<b>TAKERS</b>
daily: 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00	daily: 6:30 - 9:00 matinee: 11:30 late show: 11:30
<b>EASY A</b>	<b>PIRANHA 3D</b>
daily: 4:15 - 6:30 - 8:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:15 late show: 11:00	PG-13 daily: 7:15 matinee: 9:30 late show: 11:45
<b>AVATAR SPECIAL EDITION 3D</b>	<b>LOTTERY TICKET</b>
daily: 12:00 - 3:45 matinee: 12:00 - 3:45 late show: 5:00	PG-13 daily: 12:00 - 2:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 5:00
<b>PIRANHA 3D</b>	<b>RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D</b>
daily: 6:45 - 9:00 matinee: 11:15 late show: 11:15	PG-13 daily: 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 12:00
<b>CATS &amp; DOGS GALORE 3D</b>	<b>DINNER FOR SCHMUCKS</b>
daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 late show: 12:15 - 2:30	PG-13 daily: 1:00 - 3:45 matinee: 1:00 - 3:45 late show: 1:00 - 3:45
<b>THE AMERICAN</b>	<b>THE AMERICAN</b>
daily: 6:15 - 8:45 matinee: 1:15 - 3:45 late show: 11:15	PG-13 daily: 6:15 - 8:45 matinee: 1:15 - 3:45 late show: 11:15

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# Crawford, Longoria homer, Rays beat Yankees 7-2

**The Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Carl Crawford and Evan Longoria hit consecutive home runs Wednesday to give the Tampa Bay Rays a 7-2 win over the New York Yankees after a long rain delay took some of the luster out of a key September game.

Dan Johnson hit his third homer against New York in a week as the Rays' bullpen outpitched the New York relievers to help Tampa Bay pull within 1 1/2 games of the

**AL Roundup** Yankees in the American League East in a game that ended at 12:34 a.m. Tampa Bay improved to 9-8 in the season series — the first tiebreaker should the teams be equal after 162 games — with one game to go.

The finale of the four-game set for Thursday is highlighted by the anticipated rematch of Cy Young pitching award candidates CC Sabathia and David Price after they went zero for zero for eight innings on Sept. 13 in Florida.

## Rangers 2, Angels 1, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Francoeur doubled to lead off the 12th inning and eventually scored on Jeff Mathis' passed ball as Texas trimmed its magic number for clinching the AL West to four.

Mathis' mistake on an easily catchable pitch by Matt

Palmer (1-2) ended an eight-inning scoreless drought for the Rangers, who extended their division lead over Oakland to eight games heading into a four-game series at the Coliseum.

Texas can clinch its first AL West title since 1999 with two wins over the Athletics. Its magic number dropped earlier Wednesday with Oakland's 4-3 loss to the White Sox.

Mike Napoli tied it with a seventh-inning homer for the Angels, who lost for just the fourth time in 13 games.

## Mariners 6, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Jose Lopez hit three home runs and Michael Saunders added a two-run drive as Seattle beat Toronto.

Lopez hit a solo shot off Kyle Drabek (0-2) in the second inning, led off the sixth with a drive against reliever Brian Tallet and connected off reliever Shawn Camp in the eighth. It was his first multihomer game of the season and fourth of his career.

Lopez, who has 10 home runs, hit all three homers to left field.

Vernon Wells had a solo shot, Toronto's major league-best 233rd.

David Pauley (3-8) got the win. Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 1 for 5, leaving him two hits from becoming the first player to record 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons. Suzuki leads the majors with 198 hits.

## Red Sox 6, Orioles 1

At Boston, David Ortiz homered and drove in four runs, and John Lackey ended a career-worst four-game losing streak as Boston avoided a three-game sweep by beating Baltimore. Josh Reddick also homered for Boston — his first of the season — as the Red Sox avoided being swept in Fenway Park by the Orioles for the first time since 1994.

Lackey (13-11) pitched seven innings and allowed one run and five hits.

Ortiz hit a three-run homer — his 31st — into the Red Sox bullpen off Kevin Millwood (3-16).

## Twins 5, Indians 1

At Minneapolis, Minnesota rested most of its regulars and beat Cleveland behind the pitching of Nick Blackburn to complete a three-game sweep a day after becoming the first major league team to clinch a playoff berth this year. Blackburn became the sixth Minnesota pitcher to reach double digits in victories, allowing one run and five hits in seven innings.

Jose Morales had three RBIs and Alexei Casilla had three hits for Minnesota, which has won nine of 11 and improved its record at new Target Field to 52-25.

The Twins have sold out 74 straight home games and set a season home attendance record with 3,063,327, topping their 1988 mark.

Tigers 4, Royals 2



Home plate umpire Tom Hallion, center, throws Tampa Bay Rays' Carl Crawford, left, out of the game for arguing a called third strike during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Stepping up to bat is Rays' Evan Longoria, right.

**Associated Press**

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera's leadoff single started a three-run fifth inning as Detroit held on to beat Kansas City.

Max Scherzer (12-10) gave up two hits and struck out eight over 7 2-3 innings. Ryan Perry got the final out of the eighth and Phil Coke pitched a shaky ninth.

Billy Butler hit a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth to pull the Royals within two.

Cabrera ended the night with a .326 batting average. He leads the majors with 120 RBIs and is among the leaders with 45 doubles and 35 homers.

## White Sox 4, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Mark Teahen hit a go-ahead double with two outs in the ninth inning after pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay's tying

RBI single as Chicago rallied past Oakland to end a season-worst eight game skid.

The White Sox got to Oakland's short-handed bullpen, scoring twice against Brad Ziegler (3-5). The right-hander hadn't given up a run in his previous 12 appearances.

White Sox slugger Manny Ramirez was a late scratch after telling manager Ozzie Guillen he didn't feel well. Oakland's Chris Carter hit his first career home run.

**In other AL games it was Minnesota 5, Cleveland 1; Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3; Detroit 4, Kansas City 2; Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 2; Seattle 6, Toronto 3; Boston 6, Baltimore 1; and Texas 2, L.A. Angels 1, 12 innings** □

# Phillies beat Braves 1-0 for 10th straight win

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Roy Oswalt and two relief pitchers allowed just one hit as National League East-leading Philadelphia beat Atlanta 1-0 on Wednesday for the Phillies' 10th straight win that increased their lead over the Braves to six games.

NL Roundup Raul Ibanez hit an RBI double with two outs in the eighth inning for the only run, helping the two-time NL champions reduce their magic number for clinching their fourth straight division title to four. It was the Phillies' first home sweep over the Braves since 2001.

Oswalt allowed the hit — a clean double by Martin Prado in the fourth — and walked one in seven innings.

Atlanta began the day with a one-game lead over San Diego in the wild-card race.

## Padres 3, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Miguel Tejada hit his 300th career home run as San Diego reclaimed first place from San Francisco in the topsy-turvy NL West race.

The Giants lost to the Chicago Cubs 2-0, giving the Padres a half-game lead as they returned to the top of the standings for the first time since last Saturday. It was the third time the division lead changed hands since the Padres lost at St. Louis to fall out of first on Sept. 16.

Tim Stauffer (5-4) allowed one run and three hits in six innings, struck out five and walked two.

Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his career-high 43rd save in 46 chances.

Tejada's eighth homer of the season gave the Padres a 3-1 lead in the third.

## Cubs 2, Giants 0

At Chicago, Randy Wells pitched 7 2-3 innings and



Philadelphia Phillies' Raul Ibanez follows through after hitting a go-ahead RBI double off Atlanta Braves pitcher Jonny Venters in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, in Philadelphia. At right is Atlanta catcher Brian McCann. Philadelphia won 1-0.

Associated Press

Kosuke Fukudome homered to lead Chicago past San Francisco.

The Giants were shut out for the fourth time in their last five losses. It was the eighth time in 11 games they scored two runs or fewer. The Cubs have won seven of their last eight games, the lone loss 1-0 on Tuesday to the Giants on Buster Posey's home run.

After Wells walked Travis Ishikawa and allowed a double to Cody Ross with two outs in the eighth, Cubs closer Carlos Marmol struck out Freddy Sanchez to end the inning. Marmol struck out the side in the ninth for his 34th save.

## Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 4

At Phoenix, Adam LaRoche, Stephen Drew and Kelly Johnson homered to help deny Ubaldo Jimenez his 20th victory as Arizona sent Colorado to its third straight loss.

Jimenez (19-7) lasted just four innings, giving up five runs and six hits. He couldn't hold a 4-0 lead. Colorado gave him in the first on Melvin Mora's three-run homer and Todd

Helton's solo shot.

Rodrigo Lopez (7-14) retired 13 of the last 14 hitters he faced. Four relievers held the Rockies scoreless over the final four innings. Sam Demel pitched 1 2-3 innings to get his second save in two tries.

Jimenez gave up two homers in a game for the first time this year and fell to 4-6 in 13 starts since beginning the season 15-1. The Rockies are 3-5 after winning 10 straight.

## Brewers 13, Reds 1

At Milwaukee, Craig Counsell homered during Milwaukee's eight-run second inning and Corey Hart homered the next inning as the Brewers finished with 19 hits.

Cincinnati pitcher Aaron Harang hobbled off after being hit in the leg by a line drive and the NL Central-leading Reds had their magic number cut to three when Pittsburgh beat St. Louis 11-6.

Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto (12-6) had his shortest start of the season and Harang, normally a starter, was struck in the right ankle by Rickie Weeks' liner in the

fourth inning. X-rays were negative and Harang had a bruise.

## Pirates 11, Cardinals 6

At Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton pitched effectively over six innings to win for the first time in 4 1/2 months and Pedro Alvarez homered and drove in four runs as Pittsburgh extended St. Louis' late-season collapse. John Bowker homered among three hits as the Pirates won their fifth straight, their longest streak since an identical run in

August 2009, and assured the Cardinals of their eighth consecutive series loss to a losing-record opponent. St. Louis has dropped 25 of 37 since it led the NL Central on Aug. 13, including the first two of this three-game series.

Any combination of losses by St. Louis or wins by first-place Cincinnati totaling three will eliminate St. Louis from a division race it led much of the season. Cincinnati lost 13-1 at Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Nationals 4, Astros 3 At Washington, Danny Espinosa hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the

seventh inning and a triple, and Michael Morse added a solo shot as Washington edged Houston.

September call-up Espinosa's fifth homer barely cleared the out-of-town scoreboard in right field off the second pitch from reliever Jeff Fulchino (2-1). Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez walked Justin Maxwell leading off the inning.

Espinosa scored Washington's first run of the game after tripling in the third, coming home on Ian Desmond's infield single. Morse's 12th homer came on Rodriguez's first pitch of the fourth.

## Marlins 7, Mets 5

At Miami, Wes Helms had two of his three RBIs in a five-run first inning and Dan Uggla drove in two runs as Florida downed New York.

Alex Sanabia (5-3) allowed three runs in five innings for the Marlins, who have won three straight.

Leo Nunez got the Marlins out of a jam in the eighth and Clay Hensley pitched the ninth for his fifth save. Uggla had an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth to make it 7-5.

Jonathon Niese (9-10) walked three, including Mike Stanton with the bases loaded, in the first inning. Helms followed Stanton's walk with a two-run double and Brad Davis' RBI groundout made it 5-0. Uggla started the scoring with an RBI single.

**In other NL games it was**  
**Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 0;**  
**Washington 4, Houston 3;**  
**Pittsburgh 11, St. Louis 6;**  
**Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 5;**  
**Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 0;**  
**Milwaukee 13, Cincinnati 1;**  
**Arizona 8, Colorado 4;** and **San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 1.**

## HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY



# US restricts, EU bans controversial diabetes pill

By MATTHEW PERRONE,  
AP Health Writer

European regulators ordered the diabetes drug Avandia off the market and the Food and Drug Administration placed stringent restrictions on its use in the United States, saying heart attack risks associated with the former blockbuster are too great a safety concern to continue its use for most people.

In simultaneous news briefings Thursday, the European Medicines Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced their long-awaited decisions on the fate of GlaxoSmithKline's controversial drug. The European regulator said it would stop authorizing marketing of Avandia, which will be off the market within the next few months.

The FDA said new patients will be able to get a prescription for Avandia, but only if they can't control their blood sugar with other medications. Doctors will have to document that their patients are eligible to receive the drug and have been briefed on its risks. FDA expects the restricted plan "will limit use of Avandia significantly."

"Although the European Medicines Agency went further by actually suspended marketing of the drug, both regulatory decisions result in essentially the same outcome, virtually complete elimination of the use of this drug by patients around the world," said Dr. Steve Nissen of the Cleveland Clinic. Nissen, who published the first paper linking Avandia to heart risks, said only a small number of U.S. patients would receive the drug under the new restrictions.

GlaxoSmithKline's chief medical officer, Dr. Ellen Strahlman, said in a statement that the company will voluntarily stop promoting

Avandia in all countries where it operates.

"The company continues to believe that Avandia is an important treatment for patients with type 2 diabetes and is now working with the FDA and EMA to implement the required actions."

The safety of Avandia, the brand name for rosiglitazone, has been the top drug safety controversy facing the FDA, and its split from European regulators is sure to draw criticism from public safety advocates and confuse patients.

The FDA's top drug reviewer said the evidence against Avandia was not strong enough to warrant withdrawal.

"As a matter of prudence we are restricting access," said the FDA's Dr. Janet Woodcock. "We are not withdrawing the drug at this time because there is considerable uncertainty about this signal and whether or not it is valid."

The decision marks the second time in three years that the agency has decided to leave Avandia on the market, despite mounting pressure from outside medical experts, politicians and some of its own scientists.

The FDA first approved the drug in 1999 and it became the top-selling diabetes pill in the world. But use has plummeted since a 2007 analysis linked the drug to heart attack risks. The European Commission still must approve the recommendations by the European Medicines Agency, a process that could take several weeks. Decisions by the health regulators usually are not challenged.

"In light of all the information available and including results from some very recent studies, the committee concluded that as of today, the benefits of rosiglitazone can no longer be considered to outweigh its risks," Dr. Hans-Georg

Eichler, EMA's senior medical officer, said Thursday.

"Rosiglitazone was authorized more than 10 years ago," he said. "Even at that time, there was a question mark over rosiglitazone's cardiovascular safety."

"What you're hearing today is the latest step in a chain of regulatory assessments and actions," Eichler said.

Eichler said the EMA and the FDA communicated frequently and shared data and other information in reviewing the drug's safety, and said that, in the end, both agencies reached similar conclusions. "We're operating in different health care environments, we have different legal frameworks and we had different starting points," he said in explaining the contrast in action taken by the agencies. "In Europe, we already had



Pharmacy staff holds a package of the diabetes drug Avandia in a pharmacy in Berlin, July 14, 2010.

REUTERS/Thomas Peter

a very restricted indication for this drug so we both concluded that in the context of our environments, these are the best ways forward."

FDA's critics have framed the Avandia decision as a key test of the agency's Obama-appointed leadership, who

vowed to bolster the agency's regulatory stance after a series of drug safety problems under the previous administration.

FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said the FDA's decision reflects its unique powers to restrict access to medications. □

## 44 pct of gay, bisexual men with HIV don't know it

By MIKE STOBBE,  
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — One in five sexually active gay and bisexual men has the AIDS virus, and nearly half of those don't know they are infected, a federal study of 21 U.S. cities shows.

Experts said the findings are similar to earlier research, but the study released Thursday is the largest to look at gay and bisexual U.S. men at high risk for HIV. More than 8,000 men were tested and interviewed, and 44 percent of those who had the virus didn't know they had it.

Overall, less than half of 1 percent of Americans have the AIDS virus, according to a calculation by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a research and policy organization in Washington, D.C. But gay and bisexual men continue to be infected at much higher rates, said Jennifer Kates, Kaiser's director of global health and HIV policy.

"We don't have a generalized epidemic in the United States. We have a concentrated epidemic among certain populations," she

said.

That's why a new national AIDS strategy, unveiled by the White House in July, is emphasizing more of a government focus on men who have sex with men and others at the highest risk of getting infected, Kates said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV testing at least once a year for all men who have sex with men and are sexually active, but research indicates more than half don't get tested.

An earlier study in just five cities in 2004-05 found similar results.

The new study, conducted in 2008, included 16 additional cities. Researchers offered free testing to the men, interviewed them and paid around \$25 for their participation.

Black men were more likely to have HIV, with 28 percent reportedly infected, compared to 18 percent of Hispanic men and 16 percent of white men.

Black men were also least likely to know they were infected — about 60 percent didn't know they had HIV — compared 46 percent of Hispanic men and 26 percent of whites. □

# Box Office Preview: 'Wall Street' rally likely

By  
DERGARABEDIAN,  
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If greed is good, big box office is better. The return of Michael Douglas' iconic movie villain Gordon Gekko in Fox's "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" is expected to open on top this weekend with a rally around \$20 million.

Director Oliver Stone's 1987 original earned close to \$90 million in today's dollars, as well as an acting Oscar for

PAUL Douglas and an enduring place in popular culture for Gekko and his greed. So anticipation for the sequel is running high. With very few options in the weekend marketplace for the family crowd, Warner Bros.' "Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole" should take flight in the mid to high teens, showcasing a shift into PG territory for director Zack Snyder, who built his reputation on highly stylized R-rated fare.

Ben Affleck's "The Town"



FILE - In this Aug. 30, 2009 file photo, Ellen DeGeneres, right, and Portia de Rossi arrive at the Daytime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

## Portia de Rossi takes wife Ellen DeGeneres' name

LOS ANGELES — Portia (POR'-shuh) de Rossi has officially taken wife Ellen DeGeneres' last name.

A Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner granted De Rossi's request to take the last name of her partner during a closed hearing Thursday. The television star will now legally be known as Portia Lee James DeGeneres.

The couple was married in August 2008. The 37-year-old Australian-born actress asked for the name change last month.

Neither woman attended the hearing. They married during the five-month window in which gay marriage was legal in California.

Portia DeGeneres is well-known for her roles on several television series, including "Ally McBeal," "Arrested Development" and "Better Off Ted." □



Actors, from left, Shia LaBeouf, Frank Langella, Carey Mulligan and Michael Douglas attend the premiere of 'Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps' at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

from Warner Bros. opened last week with a stronger-than-expected \$23.8 million and should hold up well in its second outing. With midweek grosses in the \$2.5 million to \$3 million range, the R-rated heist drama has been generating strong word-of-mouth and kudos for Affleck's

directing prowess. A gross in the mid teens against a minimal mid-40 percent drop is to be expected.

Sony's "Easy A" has also been generating strong buzz and is already a solid profit-making machine for the studio. Star Emma Stone has proven herself to be an appealing

draw for teen audiences and the modestly budgeted film should wind up with close to \$10 million in its sophomore weekend for a gross of \$30 million so far. Disney newcomer "You Again" should occupy the weekend's fifth position in the \$8 million to \$10 million range. □

## Brazilian film about Lula to vie for Oscars

SAO PAULO — A movie tracing the life of Brazil's popular President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been entered into the race for best foreign-language film nominations at the 2011 Oscars, the Brazilian government said Thursday.

"Lula, the Son of Brazil" will be among 95 titles from around the world competing to be chosen for the shortlist at the US Academy Awards ceremony on February 27, the culture ministry said.

The list of Oscar nominations will be known January 25. "We voted for the film that seemed best-made to us, that highlights Brazilian filmmaking," the head of the Brazilian Film Academy, Roberto Farias, said in a statement.

"Our position has nothing to do with politics. Lula is a star here and abroad," he said.

The movie recounts the early life and adulthood of Lula, a one-time shoe-shine boy and metalworker who became an influential trade union leader before becoming Brazil's president in 2003.

Last year's foreign-language winner at the Oscars was an Argentine movie, "The Secret in Their Eyes." □



A movie tracing the life of Brazil's popular President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, seen here in May 2010, has been entered into the race for best foreign-language film nominations at the 2011 Oscars, the Brazilian government said Thursday.

## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



# Stocks weaken on Europe worries and job numbers

By STEPHEN BERNARD,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks fell Thursday as new worries emerged about Europe's economy and the U.S. job market.

Stock indexes pared some of their losses but were still down in afternoon trading. The market got off to a bad start following an unexpected increase in unemployment benefits claims last week and more signs of weakness in the European economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 44 points in afternoon trading after being down as much as 94 shortly after the opening bell.

Traders were disappointed to see first-time unemployment

claims rise last week, breaking a recent trend of declines. The Labor Department said claims jumped by 12,000 and are still at levels that signal employers are not significantly adding new jobs. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters had forecast claims would remain unchanged.

Unemployment claims had fallen consistently in recent weeks, reducing worries that the economy might fall back into recession. Modest improvements in many economic reports have driven stocks sharply higher in September. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 13 of the past 16 days, but broke a five-day winning streak on Wednesday.

European markets fell and the euro dropped against the dollar after a closely watched reading on business activity

in the 16 countries that use the euro weakened more than expected. It was the latest sign of trouble in Europe, which investors had largely stopped worrying about since a debt crisis in Greece eased this spring. Adding to the gloom was news that Ireland's economy contracted 1.2 percent in the second quarter.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 43.93 or 0.4 percent, to 10,695.38 in afternoon trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500

index fell 6.01, or 0.5 percent, to 1,128.27, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 3.38, or 0.1 percent, to 2,331.17.

Stocks erased some of their losses on news that home sales climbed back from 15-year lows in August and an index of future economic activity rose more than expected. After trading mixed for much of the



In this Sept. 21, 2010 photograph, Michael Pistillo of Barclays Capital, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Stocks were set to extend their recent slide Thursday, Sept. 23, following a drop in European markets.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

day stocks turned lower in the late afternoon.

Falling stocks outpaced rising ones two to one on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 600 million shares.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a widely used

benchmark for consumer and business loans, rose to 2.56 percent from 2.55 percent late Wednesday.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.1 percent, Germany's DAX index dropped 0.4 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.7 percent. □

## Congress sends small business bill to Obama

WASHINGTON – Democrats controlling Congress are sending President Barack Obama a long-delayed bill to help struggling small businesses with easier credit and give them other incentives to expand and to hire new workers.

The legislation passed by a 237-187 vote that split along party lines. It establishes a \$30 billion government fund to help Main Street banks lend to small businesses and cut taxes on both big and small businesses.

The legislation is aimed at easing a small-business credit crunch that worsened dramatically after the financial crisis two years ago.

It's a modest victory for Democrats, whose jobs agenda has otherwise mostly been stalled by Senate Republicans opposed to new spending programs. □

## Luminaries say recession not over



Case worker Jessica Yon discusses job eligibility for unemployed people at a jobs center in San Francisco, California in this February 4, 2010 file photo.

By Emily Kaiser

WASHINGTON – Who says the U.S. recession is over? Not Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. And not legendary investor Warren Buffett.

The private-sector National Bureau of Economic Research, considered the arbiter of recessions, announced on Monday it had pegged June 2009 as the end of the slump. That was no surprise to Wall Street economists, most of whom had long ago concluded the recession ended in the summer of last year.

But it put the Obama administration in an awkward position. How can policymakers declare the recession is over when nearly 15 million people are still out of work?

"I'm not an economist, and I'm not an academic," Geithner said on Wednesday when a Republican lawmaker tried to pin him down on whether he thought the recession was over. "And I would just say the following: This is still a very tough economy." That answer didn't satisfy Representative Bill Posey, who at one point told Geithner to "man up" and give a clear yes or no answer. (Posey posted a YouTube video of the exchange on his website: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyW-4oeFXD8&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyW-4oeFXD8&feature=player_embedded#!))

"Let me try one more time," Geithner said after a lengthy exchange with Posey. "We are absolutely out of the worst stage, worst, most graded, most severe, most at-risk point of this crisis, absolutely, absolutely."

For Buffett, it's a matter of semantics rather than politics. The NBER considers a recession over when the economy gets back on the recovery path, while Buffett contends it isn't over until the damage is repaired.

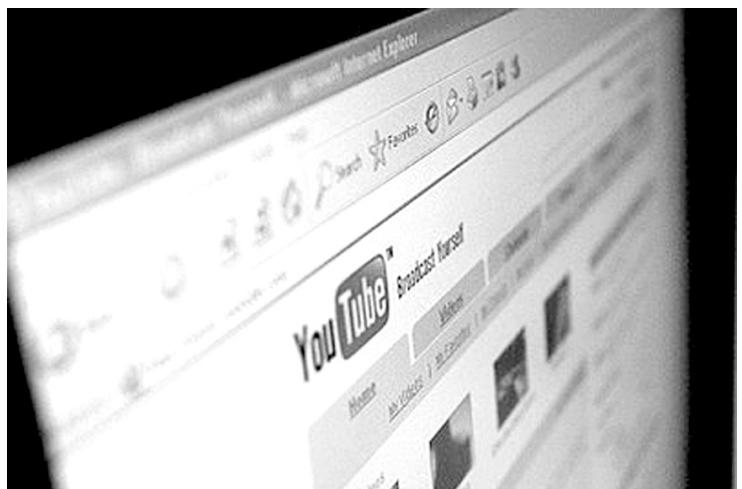
"On any common sense definition, the average American is below where he was before, or his family, in terms of real income, GDP," Buffett said in a CNBC interview. "We're still in a recession. And we're not going to be out of it for a while, but we will get out of it."

So is the recession over?

By the NBER's definition, yes. While the economy is far from regaining its pre-recession heights, it is at least on the way up.

"It's more accurate to say that a recession -- the way we use the word -- is a period of diminishing activity rather than diminished activity," the NBER explains in the "frequently asked questions" section of its website. ([http://www.nber.org/cycles/recessions\\_faq.html](http://www.nber.org/cycles/recessions_faq.html)) □

# YouTube wins piracy case against Spanish TV



MADRID – YouTube cannot be held responsible for screening images uploaded on its site, a Spanish court said Thursday, throwing out a case brought by a local TV channel over alleged copyright infringement.

Google, which owns the video-sharing phenomenon YouTube, immediately hailed the decision as a "clear victory for the Internet."

Spanish private television channel Telecinco had accused YouTube of violating

its intellectual property rights by broadcasting images that belonged to it.

The court had backed Telecinco in a provisional ruling in 2008, ordering YouTube to suspend the broadcast of Telecinco videos. But it ruled against the Spanish channel in its final decision, reached on Monday and made public on Thursday.

Telecinco said it would appeal the ruling.

Telecinco believed that "the broadcast on the (YouTube)

Internet site of various audiovisual recordings... was a violation of the intellectual property rights of Telecinco," the Madrid court said.

But it is "physically impossible to control all the videos that are made available to users, as there are in fact more than 500 million."

"YouTube is not a supplier of content and therefore has no obligation to control ex-ante the illegality" of what is on its site, said the ruling, issued in Spanish. "Its only obligation is to cooperate with the holders of the rights in order to immediately withdraw the content once the infraction is identified."

Google said the decision is "a clear victory for the Internet and the rules that govern it."

"This decision reaffirms European law which recognizes that content owners (not service providers like YouTube) are in the best position to know whether a

specific work is authorised to be on an Internet hosting service," Google said in a statement.

"If Internet sites had to screen all videos, photos and text before allowing them on a website, many popular sites -- not just YouTube, but Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and others -- would grind to a halt." It said YouTube provided a free tool known as Content ID "designed to prevent copyright abuses and give owners control over their content" which is used by more than 1,000 media companies. Telecinco, controlled by Italian broadcaster Mediaset which is owned by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, had alleged YouTube was hurting Telecinco by airing episodes of its television shows before the channel broadcast them in Spain.

Telecinco said it "welcomes the contents of the court decision" which give it the

"green light" to appeal.

"The judge avoided taking a decision which would have jeopardised the national and even international business of YouTube and its owner Google," it said.

It noted in particular the judge's observation that "there is no simple and convenient procedure for the plaintiff, particularly because it bears the thankless task of tracking and controlling the content that is hosted on the website of the defendant."

In June, a US judge also threw out a copyright lawsuit filed against YouTube by US entertainment giant Viacom, which sued Google and YouTube for a billion dollars in March 2007, alleging it used pirated video clips to boost its popularity.

YouTube was a year-old Internet sensation when Google bought it in a 1.65-billion-dollar stock deal in 2006. □

# NY town enacts tough cell tower limits

By FRANK ELMAN,  
Associated Press Writer

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. – A Long Island township has imposed restrictions on the placement of new cell towers that are among the toughest in the country, and one phone company says it effectively bans new construction.

The town of Hempstead is a notable example on a list of municipalities tightening rules on where cell phone companies can place antennas. The moves come as consumers are demanding blanket wireless coverage for their phones and buying laptops and, more recently, tablet computers that also rely on cell towers. Despite a 1996 federal law prohibiting municipalities from considering health issues in approving locations for cell antennas, a group of mothers concerned about what they consider risky cell towers outside their children's schools successfully lobbied the town of Hempstead.

"Our position is we want to be more proactive," said Jody Turk-Goldberg, co-founder of a civic group called "Moms of Merrick," which discounts pronouncements by groups like the American Cancer Society that conclude there is scant evidence that cell towers are a health hazard.

"We saw what the tobacco companies did years ago; everybody said smoking was safe," she added.

The ordinance passed unanimously this week by the Hempstead town board prohibits wireless companies from installing equipment closer than 1,500 feet to homes, day care centers, schools and houses of worship, unless they submit compelling evidence that there is an absolute need. Hempstead, home to America's first suburban community — Levittown — is a densely populated township just east of New

York City.

While the town board adhered to FCC regulations to not consider possible health effects, officials instead described the vote as a quality of life issue.

The ordinance provides "real protection against the siting of cell towers and antennae in locations that would adversely impact home values or the character of local neighborhoods," said Kate Murray, supervisor of the Long Island town; the country's largest, with a population of approximately 759,000.

The town has also hired Richard Comi of the Center for Municipal Solutions as a consultant to review applications of cellular companies seeking to install new antennas or towers. Comi's company advises municipalities in 32 states on cell tower regulations, he said. "Because of the volume and continued growth of cellular devices, all of the 'easy places' to locate antennae and cell towers are gone," Comi said. "The issue is they are having to penetrate residential areas now and that leads to concerns of aesthetics and home values."

Among other municipalities taking action on cell towers, the city of Bend, Ore., is considering restrictions on the size and location of cell phone towers that may keep them out of residential areas and off historic buildings. A proposed city ordinance would ban poles and towers that soar above building tops and tree lines in low and standard density residential areas.

There would also be restrictions on camouflaged towers, like the ones designed to mimic trees, to make sure they don't stick out in their surroundings. But not all the momentum is against the cell companies.

In Mount Vernon, N.Y., a federal court ruled recently that the city had violated both federal and state law in its review of an application by MetroPCS Communications Inc. to put antennas on a rooftop, and ordered the installation to proceed.

"It's easy for people to say they want better cell service," said Turk-Goldberg. "Every single mom we have spoken to uses cell phones, they all have good service. The question is how many towers do we need? They have invaded us with tons of towers; they're all over the place. We just don't want our children exposed."

David Samberg, a spokesman for Verizon Wireless, said his company has encountered opposition to cell towers in virtually every municipality around the country. "It's not unheard of for towns to have issues, but this is extreme," he said, contending that the Hempstead regulations effectively would shut out 95 percent of the town to future antenna construction. "Every place you go it's the same questions. It usually starts with health effects, then they go to the question of real estate values," Samberg said.

Fewer choices for cell sites forces phone companies to pay more for the remaining options, and settle for places that don't help coverage as much. Even where there is coverage, phone companies sometimes add towers to boost calling and data capacity.

The phones and the radiation they emit are subject to suspicion as well: San Francisco legislators this summer passed an ordinance that requires phone stores to post the radiation values of different models, starting next year. The wireless industry association has sued the city in return, saying the radiation values are irrelevant to shoppers, as long as they're under the legal limit set by the FCC. □

# Lost language un-earthed in a letter

LIMA – Archaeologists say scrawl on the back of a letter recovered from a 17th century dig site reveals a previously unknown language spoken by indigenous peoples in northern Peru.

A team of international archaeologists found the letter under a pile of adobe bricks in a collapsed church complex near Trujillo, 347 miles north of Lima. The complex had been inhabited by Dominican friars for two centuries.

"Our investigations determined that this piece of paper records a number system in a language that has been lost for hundreds of years," Jeffrey Quilter, an archaeologist at Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, told Reuters.

A photograph of the letter recently released by archaeologists shows a column of numbers written in Spanish and translated into a language that scholars say is now extinct.

"We discovered a language no one has seen or heard since the 16th or 17th century," Quilter said, adding that the language appears to have been influenced by Quechua, an ancient tongue still spoken by millions of people across the Andes.

He said it could also be the written version of a language colonial-era Spaniards referred to in historical writings as pescadora, for the fishermen on Peru's northern coast who spoke it.

So far no record of the pescadora language has been found.

The letter, buried in the ruins of the Magdalena de Cao Viejo church at the El Brujo Archaeological Complex in northern Peru, was discovered in 2008.

But Quilter said archaeologists decided to keep their discovery secret until the research showing evidence of the lost language was published this month in the journal American Anthropologist. "I think a lot of people don't realize how many languages were spoken in pre-contact times," Quilter said. "Linguistically, the relationship between the Spanish conquistadors and the indigenous was very complex." □

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# Florida panthers bound back thanks to Texas mates



This July 2009 handout photo provided by the journal Science shows a three-week-old Florida panther kitten in the Picayune Strand State Forest. In the quest to save the endangered Florida panther, their Texas cousins were the cat's meow. Fifteen years ago, Florida imported some wild panthers from Texas as fresh blood for the dwindling Florida cats. Now scientists have created an astonishingly in-depth family tree of today's Florida panthers, and found the program not only boosted the population — it left a group of cats who are genetically harder.

*(AP Photo/Science)*

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In the quest to save the endangered Florida panther, their Texas cousins were the cat's meow. Wildlife biologists moved eight female panthers from Texas — close relatives yet genetically distinct — into south Florida 15 years ago in hopes of boosting reproduction, and the immigration paid off.

Now scientists have created an astonishingly in-depth family tree of today's panthers to prove the genetic mixing not only left a bigger population but a healthier one — offering support for this type of conservation as biologists struggle to save pockets of rare

species the world over.

"Our results have shown you can have a positive impact on these endangered populations by doing this genetic restoration," said study co-author David Onorato, a research scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Indeed, many of the world's remaining lions and tigers live in very small groups where inbreeding may threaten their health just like it threatened the Florida panthers, and might benefit from similar "genetic rescues," said Stuart Pimm, a conservation biologist at Duke University. He wasn't part of the new study but has separately tracked the panther

program.

"What this remarkable experiment ... has shown is that as long as you don't leave it too late, you can rescue some of these populations," Pimm said.

But it's a big decision to try to supplement habitat preservation with moving animals around, he noted.

"Moving panthers isn't easy. Moving lions and tigers is going to be really, really hard," he said. The study was published in Friday's edition

of the journal Science. Thousands of these panthers once roamed the southeastern United States, but their habitat gradually shrank until today. They hang on between Miami and Naples.

By the 1990s, there were only 20 to 25 adults left. The small numbers, cut off from any possible contact with other panther species that roam the West, meant inbreeding that was causing genetic defects: Low testosterone levels, poor sperm quality, holes in the

heart, undescended testes, even kinked tails and cowlicks between their shoulders.

In short, they needed fresh blood — and South Floridians already knew the 1995 Texas importation helped. There now are an estimated 100 Florida panthers, still endangered and struggling on shrinking habitat but an important improvement.

The new study for the first time details the genetic diversity that accompanied the population rebound. □

## Study shows latest government spill estimate right

By SETH BORENSTEIN,  
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — After several missteps, the federal government finally got it right, accurately estimating how much oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico, an independent scientific study found.

Nearly 185 million gallons of oil spilled from the broken BP well into the Gulf of Mexico this summer, according to a study by two Columbia University researchers who made their estimates based on video of the oil spewing from the well. The federal government's final estimate was a shade more than 172 million gallons. The Columbia researchers' estimate is 12.6 million gallons more than the federal figure. However, because it's so difficult to

get a precise estimate, there is a large margin of error for both the government figure and the Columbia number. The margin is so large that the two estimates essentially overlap, the researchers said. Their study was published online Thursday in the journal Science. U.S. Geological Survey Director Marcia McNutt, who oversaw federal estimates of the spill size, called the Columbia study "a completely independent and unbiased verification of the government result."

Tim Crone of Columbia, the lead researcher who calculated his estimate based on detailed flow formulas determined by watching video of the leak, "Our numbers overlap, so sure, we agree." But Crone said he is more confident

in his estimate because it went through the rigorous independent peer review required to be published in a respected journal. He added that it is hard to compare in depth to federal numbers "because few details of their methods have been released." Crone used a different technique to study video than most scientists who analyze flow rates from video. Usually, scientists track particles and calculate a speed as they travel across a screen, sort of like watching a car race down a highway. But in this case the particles were hard to track, so Crone used a technique he's been working on for a decade. Crone studies individual points in the video — all the points — and watches their changes in color and texture. For this study, Crone reviewed video from two dates, May 15 and June 3, and extrapolated for the spill estimate.

The Columbia estimate has a margin of error of 20 percent, so the spill would be somewhere between 148 million and 222 million gallons. The federal estimate had a 10 percent margin of error, so the spill would be somewhere between 155 million and 189 million gallons. Federal estimates of how much oil spilled and where it has gone have been criticized by both scientists and Congress because the agencies involved have not provided detailed information on how they calculated their figures. □

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*Muere jefe militar de la FARC en operación 'Operación Sodoma' del ejército colombiano*

# Muerte de "El Mono Jojoy es como si le dijeran a los neoyorquinos que cayó Osama bin Laden

*Según presidente colombiano, Rafael Santos*

BOGOTA (AP) - El jefe militar de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), "El Mono Jojoy", murió en una operación gubernamental contra posiciones de la guerrilla en la región sur del país.

"Es el golpe más grande que se le da a las FARC en toda su historia", aseguró el presidente colombiano Juan Manuel Santos desde Nueva York, donde participa en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

"Esta mañana me llamó el señor ministro de la Defensa (Rodrigo Rivera) y los comandantes (de las Fuerzas Armadas) y me dijeron que ya había sido identificado el cadáver de 'El Mono Jojoy'", agregó. "Es una noticia histórica para nuestro país", sentenció el mandatario.

El comandante de la Fuerza Aérea Colombiana (FAC), general Julio González, dijo a la AP que hubo operativos durante dos días con la participación de 60 aeronaves.

"Se lanzaron más de 50 bombas... (y) participaron en tierra más de 2.000 hombres", señaló. Dijo que se está estudiando si se les entrega una millonaria recompensa a varias personas que al parecer guiaron a la fuerza pública hasta el sitio donde se encontraba el guerrillero. Se ofrecía por él una recompensa de 5 millones de dólares.

La acción se desarrolló cerca del caserío La Julia, departamento de Meta, a unos 190 kilómetros al sur de Bogotá. Santos precisó que al menos unos 20 rebeldes también murieron y que entre ellos puede haber otros jefes importantes de la guerrilla. "Esta es la operación bienvenida que les habíamos prometido a las FARC", aseguró.

Momentos después, en declaraciones exclusivas para la AP, Santos dijo que



En esta foto del 9 de enero de 1999 aparece Jorge Briceño, alias 'Mono Jojoy', mientras pasa revista a guerrilleros de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC, en las afueras de la localidad de San Vicente del Caguán, al sur de Colombia. (AP Photo/El Espectador, Gabriel Aponte, archivo)

la muerte del guerrillero "es como si aquí en Nueva York le dijeran a los neoyorquinos que cayó Osama bin Laden... (Jojoy) llevaba 35 años generando terror entre los colombianos".

Dijo que se enteró de la noticia cuando "estaba trotando por Central Park y me dijeron que me necesitaban urgente, urgente. Pasé al teléfono y el ministro de Defensa me

dijo que el resultado de una operación que habíamos planeado era positiva... Esto ya estaba planeado".

El ministro de Defensa llamó al mandatario durante la rueda de prensa en Bogotá y le aseguró: "Presidente, podemos decirle que hemos llegado al corazón, a la guarida misma de las FARC, y hemos dado uno de los golpes, creo que no exagero en decir, tal

vez el golpe más fuerte en la historia de Colombia contra esta organización terrorista".

Rivera precisó que era un campamento de más de 300 metros de longitud, con un búnker construido en concreto, con túneles y áreas de escape dispuestas estratégicamente y afirmó que para ubicar el objetivo "hubo colaboración de miembros de las FARC". Cinco militares

murieron en la operación.

Otro general general de las Fuerzas Militares, que pidió que su nombre no fuera publicado por no estar autorizado para hablar públicamente, indicó que "Jojoy" perdió la vida durante el bombardeo.

Los informes indican que el guerrillero constantemente cambiaba de campamentos y que gracias a labores de inteligencia se logró la ubicación del sitio exacto donde estaba.

"Esta operación no se pudo haber hecho sino con apoyo interno", dijo a la AP Alvaro Balcázar, el oficial civil encargado de un plan social gubernamental en la región. "Se necesita las operaciones precisas con inteligencia (y) con gente adentro", añadió.

"El Mono Jojoy" era considerado como el jefe militar de las FARC, aunque no tuviese formalmente ese cargo porque la jefatura rebelde es colegiada con siete integrantes. El 16 de junio de 1987 el país supo por primera vez de "Jojoy". Ese día, un grupo de las FARC guiado por él atacó un convoy militar en el departamento de Caquetá y 26 militares y un civil fueron muertos. □

## Venezuela garantiza transparencia en elecciones del domingo

CARACAS (Reuters) - Autoridades electorales de Venezuela desestimaron el jueves acusaciones de fraude y garantizaron la transparencia en los comicios legislativos que celebrará el domingo el país sudamericano, vistos como cruciales para medir el apoyo al presidente Hugo Chávez.

El Gobierno no invitó a organismos internacionales como la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) o la Unión Europea (UE) para observar las elecciones, lo que levantó sospechas de parte de sectores de la oposición política que advirtieron sobre un posible fraude. "Pueden tener la seguridad que el sistema electoral venezolano -para no pecar de poca modestia- es el más seguro de este hemisferio y no es exagerado decir que es el más seguro del mundo",

dijo la presidenta del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Tibisay Lucena.

"Tenemos la gran certeza que la voluntad popular se comparecerá cristalínamente con los resultados que vamos a anunciar al final de la jornada de votación", agregó en una reunión con unos 150 observadores electorales extranjeros.

Los veedores participaban el jueves en un seminario donde recibían información sobre el sistema automatizado de votación venezolano.

Uno de los rectores del Poder Electoral dijo esta semana a Reuters que el sistema de votación del país es del siglo XXI, pero que el control en la campaña es del siglo XIX, en una crítica a la transparencia del proceso.

Por otra parte, un observador extranjero comentó que espera poder tener

"libertad" para movilizarse por los distintos distritos electorales.

"Si no hay libertad para movilizarnos, si sólo recibimos instrucciones, es una forma de coartar", dijo a Reuters el presidente del Consejo Electoral Provisional (CEP) de Haití, Gaillot Dorsainvil. Mientras que otro observador internacional, quien prefirió el anonimato, lanzó una crítica fuerte: "El Gobierno de Chávez y todos los órganos y poderes que lo conforman no dan garantías para unas elecciones transparentes".

Sin embargo, la fiscal general del país, Luisa Ortega, dijo que "las distintas misiones de observaciones electorales" han corroborado la imparcialidad del CNE a lo largo de los 13 procesos electorales desde que Chávez asumió el poder en 1999. □

# CHINO LATINO

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